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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you attended or do you plan to attend the public hearings being held to solicit opinions on the Interior Department's recommendation to grant status to long-term alien workers?

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INSIDE



\$6K Donation

McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu donates \$6,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

LOCAL...Page 6



RP Typhoon

Three persons are killed and 19 are missing as typhoon lashes the Philippines.

ASIA...Page 15



Hitched!

It's a match made in Oscar heaven: Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem have gotten married.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Article 12 brings out split views

Visitor arrivals soar by 30 percent in June



Visitor arrivals to the CNMI last month were up 30 percent compared to June 2009, with increases from all primary and secondary markets mainly because last year's same month arrivals were hit hard by the H1N1 swine flu virus.

According to the Marianas Visitors

Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 28,372 visitors last month compared to 21,803 in June 2009.

The Commonwealth's primary market of Japan registered 21-percent growth in arrivals in June at

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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A legislative initiative to amend Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution stirred opposing views at a public hearing Tuesday night.

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In Guam and Saipan, we think we're not vulnerable because we haven't been hit.

—Charles "Chip" Guard, National Weather Service



Experts: CNMI vulnerable to tsunamis

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI is very susceptible to tsunamis—espe-

cially local ones—because it is situated in an area surrounded by a lot of seismic activity, according to Charles "Chip" Guard, the warning coordination

See TSUNAMIS on Page 4

Participants in the two-day tsunami awareness workshop course at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle pose for a group photo with officials from the Emergency Management Office, National Weather Service, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, and International Tsunami Information Center at the lobby of the Hyatt yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Continental urged to reconsider suspending Rota flights in Oct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has asked Continental Micronesia to reconsider its decision to suspend air service to Rota

effective Oct. 5, citing its negative impact on Rota's tourism.

The air service is operated by Continental Connection partner, Cape Air, using ATR aircraft with 46 economy class seats.

Manglona is proposing a pub-

lic-private partnership that may keep Cape Air's service to Rota.

"With the support of the CNMI leadership, particularly the Rota leadership and the Marianas Visitors Authority, I am confident that we may find a solution that

could be mutually beneficial to both the airline and the people of the CNMI," Manglona said in a June 28, 2010 letter to Continental Micronesia president Charles Duncan.

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Manglona

US House passes Rota National Park study bill. PAGE 2

Rota Health Center to open 2 nursing posts; Tinian nurses remain. PAGE 3



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Local

US House passes Rota National Park study bill

The U.S. House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill authorizing the Interior Department to study Rota as a potential site for a National Park. The measure was adopted by the House without objection.

"People on Rota have asked for this study to see if any part of their island would meet the standard of national significance for a Park," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) after the bill passed. "I think that parts of Rota do have national significance. So, I am very glad to move this legislation one

more step down the road to passage today."

The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act, H.R. 4686, now goes to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

Sablan's bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the pre- and post-Western contact archaeological sites on Rota and of the island's unique plant and animal life to determine whether these resources have national sig-

nificance. If they do, and if it would be suitable and feasible, the study may recommend establishment of a National Park on Rota to preserve and protect these resources.

The study process would include opportunities for public comment and consideration of any Park proposal.

In his statement on the House floor during debate, Sablan submitted a letter of support for the bill from Rota Mayor Melchor A.

Mendiola, who pointed out how a National Park would fit with Rota's goal of becoming an eco-tourism destination.

Designation of Park areas on Rota is also viewed as a way to free up development by giving permanent protected status to areas of importance to the rare bird and plant life that Rota enjoys.

Rota Rep. Teresita A. Santos testified in favor of the bill in April before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands. (PR)



Sablan

NMC liaison officer meets WASC

» **BOR seeks dialogue with admin, Legislature**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero met with staff of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges yesterday in San Francisco and discussed the severe sanction placed on the institution.

As this was going on, the NMC Board of Regents sought a dialogue with the Fitial administration and the Legislature to address its show-cause status and prevent the college's closure.

Deleon Guerrero confirmed his meeting with the accreditation staff but refused to share information.

"Yes, I did meet with ACCJC staff," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, but added that "due to ACCJC's policy on public disclosure, NMC must maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality with ACCJC at this juncture in the accreditation process."

During the Board of Regents' fiscal and legislative committee meeting at the NMC campus in As Terlaje on Tuesday, Deleon Guerrero said via teleconference that NMC is now

addressing each of the 10 recommendations cited by WASC on its June 30 letter.

Besides restructuring the college's management team, Deleon Guerrero said the team itself was also divided into subgroups to address specific recommendations.

He said the financial integrity of the college was among the major concerns that should be resolved before Oct. 15, 2010, deadline set by WASC.

Deleon Guerrero assured committee members that an action plan is being finalized for the board's action.

According to BOR chair Janet H. King, fellow regents have requested a meeting with the administration and the Legislature but no definite date has been set yet.

WASC earlier cited the college for allowing the central government and the Legislature to interfere in its financial operations.

King said it is important for both the executive and legislative branches to understand the important role of the commission in the college and the need to set a middle ground for all parties.

The governor's zeroing out of key positions at NMC as a result of declining revenues and resources is not permitted by WASC policy as it interferes with the college's autonomy.

Ex-convict accused of burglarizing employer denies violating probation

An ex-convict who allegedly burglarized his then employer, Saint Michael's Medical Response, while on federal probation has denied violating the conditions of his probation.

Jesse Mafnas Babauta, through his lawyer, asked the court for a fact-finding hearing at a later date.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Robert J. Bryan continued the hearing to July 23, 2010.

The U.S. Probation Office had asked the court to revoke the supervised probation of Babauta for allegedly failing to comply with four conditions: to not commit another federal, state or local crime; to submit a truthful and complete written report within the first five days of each month; to answer truthfully all inquiries by the probation officer; and to notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.

U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson stated in the petition for revocation that Babauta had confessed to being responsible for the burglary at Saint Michael's Medical Response on April

30, 2010. Brunson said that Babauta blamed his actions on a gambling addiction.

Babauta was convicted of mail fraud in March this year for defrauding a Chinese national with promises of bringing the Chinese man's daughter to Saipan from Fujian Province in exchange for payment. Persons from the Fujian Province cannot lawfully enter the CNMI without advance written permission from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General.

Babauta was ordered to serve a three-year term of probation with a condition that he complete 120 days of weekend detention prior to the expiration of his term. Babauta's term of probation will expire on March 23, 2013.

Brunson said that, on May 12, 2010, the president and owner of Saint Michael's Medical Response, told the U.S. Probation Office that Babauta was suspected of stealing the company's checks.

Some of the checks were forged and cashed in different stores on Saipan.

Brunson said the Office of the Attorney General has yet to charge Babauta in those crimes. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Rota Health Center to open 2 nursing posts; Tinian nurses remain

» Govt still looking for ways to pay SEAS, nurses at least \$300,000

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government has yet to reprogram as of yesterday at least \$300,000 to be able to pay Saipan Employment Agency and Services for the salaries of over 20 nurses and auxiliary staff at the Rota and Tinian Health Centers.

Lawmakers, the Fitial administration and municipal leaders also leave it up to SEAS to negotiate with its nine nurses and one auxiliary staff on Rota about their continued employment, following these employees' decision not to report for work until they have a new employment contract and are paid their normal wages.

Four of the Rota nurses chose not to report for work as early as June, while five other nurses didn't report to work on Thursday for non-payment of proper wages and lack of contract.

On Tinian, the SEAS nurses and auxiliary staff remain on their job despite delayed wages and the absence of a contract with SEAS.

SEAS nurses on Tinian have yet to receive their wages that were supposed to be released on July 2.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that Rota Health Center will soon issue job announcements for two full-time positions to directly hire needed registered nurses.

Santos said these two FTEs may be filled by any qualified registered nurse applicants, whether they may be from

SEAS or not.

These two positions, once filled, will help replace the nine nurses who stopped reporting for work.

Their services will be complemented by the three local hires on Rota, eight nursing assistants on Rota, and three nurses temporarily sent to Rota from the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.

"The bottom line here is to ensure there's continuation of delivery of services to patients on Rota," said Santos.

What's due to SEAS

Santos said Rota Health Center owes SEAS \$195,000 in arrears for the salaries of its nurses and auxiliary staff.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said the government also needs to come up with some \$120,000 to pay SEAS and its nurses up to at least the end of Fiscal Year 2010.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that there is still no decision which of two options to settle government arrears with SEAS will be chosen.

"This is still under advisement pending a determination of which approach would be most feasible," he said.

The first option is for the Fitial administration to reprogram funds from each of the respective delegations' funding sources such as poker and pachinko fees.

The second one is for the Tinian and Rota Legislative Delegations to pass local bills to legislate needed appropriations from their respective funding sources, such as poker and pachinko fees.

Rota and Tinian lawmakers repeatedly came to the rescue by reprogramming funds from poker and pachinko slot machine license fees to be able

to pay the nurses their delayed wages.

However, because these fees have also dried out especially on Rota where no poker and pachinko slot machine renewals are expected in July and only a few in August, there may not be funding that could be reprogrammed for nurses' salaries.

Santos said on Rota alone, the 17 patients on dialysis or with other terminal illness also rely on reprogrammed funds from poker and pachinko license fees for their monthly allowance of \$300 each.

She said this is why lawmakers also ask the Fitial administration to reprogram funds to

pay SEAS, for this manpower agency to pay its nurses that work on Rota and Tinian.

Hofschneider said if only the central or municipal government is up to date with its payments to SEAS, then Tinian and Rota lawmakers need not be forced to reprogram scarce funding every time the release of wages to nurses is delayed.

"They always come to the delegation to rescue or resolve the matter...If only the governor can invoke his authority to reprogram funds because the service of nurses is an emergency need. We hope the central government can pay and renegotiate with SEAS," he added.

Fitial declared a state of emergency for the CNMI on Tuesday last week to suspend laws and rules and allow the reprogramming of funds to avert a nursing crisis on Rota and Tinian.

Direct hire versus manpower agency

Santos said she asked the House Ways and Means Committee to appropriate funding in Fiscal Year 2011 for professional services or for manpower agencies for the employment of nurses, which she said is still less costly than directly hiring nurses.

"It will cost the government a fortune to directly hire nurses," she told reporters.

She said directly hiring a registered nurse will cost the government some \$52,000 a year.

Santos said the government will only have to pay some \$34,500 annually to a manpower agency like SEAS for every nurse hired.

"That's a big difference... That's almost \$20,000 a year in savings. In these tough times, we can't afford to pay more," she added.

Santos said the government may have to bid out again for professional service to provide nurses to Rota and Tinian.

Amid all these issues, Santos said the government still has an obligation to pay SEAS.



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Q: Who pays for home health care?

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CONTINENTAL

From Page 1

As of yesterday, Duncan has yet to respond to the letter, Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

"It is my personal belief that with proper marketing and promotion packages, we may increase the demand for Rota seats, including those from emerging markets such as military

personnel and students from nearby Guam," Manglona told Duncan.

Continental announced it will suspend service to Rota effective Oct. 5 due to required scheduled maintenance work on the ATR aircraft that currently provides services to Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Rota International Airport and Saipan International Airport.

Manglona said Cape Air has helped grow Rota's tourism since 2005.

TSUNAMIS

From Page 1

meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Guam.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Guard said people don't usually realize the CNMI's vulnerability because tsunamis are a rare event.

"But the state of science is such we can't tell the difference right now whether a larger earthquake is going to set up a destructive tsunami or not," he said.

Guard said people have to prepare for destructive tsunamis because there are no second chances.

Tsunami, a Japanese word meaning harbor wave, is a very long period wave that is mostly earthquake generated. Local tsunami is generated within 60 nautical miles of a location, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and International Tsunami Information Center, completed yesterday its two-day tsunami awareness workshop course at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle.

Guard was one of the lecturers at the workshop. He was assisted by Brian Yanagi, a disaster management specialist at the ITIC; and Dr. David Walsch, an oceanographer for the PTWC.

The first day of the course, held Tuesday, was attended by government and non-government agencies that are part of the Response Action Team, according to EMO workshop coordinator Juan T. Camacho.

Yesterday's course was attended by representatives from the business sector, non-government agencies, the media, and other government representatives who failed to attend the first day.

Myths

Guard said the workshop was intended to dispel a lot of myths associated with tsunamis and to talk about such thing as local tsunamis, distant tsunamis, and other kinds of tsunamis.

He underscored the importance of educating people about what needs to be done in case of a tsunami in the CNMI.

He pointed out that Saipan is close to volcanoes—Anatahan and Pagan—and that a couple of weeks ago there was an underwater eruption just south of Sarigan Island.

"So we have underwater volcano as well. And we have the Marianas Trench. The Marianas Trench is not something that protects us from tsunamis. It is something that is going to generate tsunamis," Guard said.

He said it helps that the landscape of Saipan prevents huge tsunami waves from developing.

"But it doesn't prevent all tsunami waves from affecting us. And there are certain areas where tsunami waves can be channeled right toward the island because of this underwater canyons," he said.

Guard pointed out that American Samoa thought the same—that tsunamis will never occur on their islands—just before experiencing one on Sept. 29, 2009.

"In Guam and Saipan, we think we're not vulnerable because we haven't been hit."

Guard said there's no destructive tsunami in Guam and Saipan in recent history because first, the islands are lucky and second, because it's a rare event.

Micronesian tsunamis that measured over three feet occurred in Guam in 1849, 1892, 1952, and 1993, and on Tinian in 1994, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

even stronger 33-percent growth in June 2010 over the previous year, registering 8,913 visitors. This marks the seventh consecutive month of double digit increases from this primary tourism market. Arrivals included over 500 Koreans making MICE—Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions—visits to the Northern Marianas stimulated by MVA's MICE support program.

The secondary market of China saw 2,298 arrivals in June 2010, a whopping 614-percent increase over the same month last year.

The increase is largely attributed to continued twice-a-week charter flights from Shanghai. Charter flights from Guangzhou are scheduled to resume in July 2010. MVA said June 2009 had a low base arrival, as charter flights from Shanghai and Guanzhou were suspended.

Meanwhile, the secondary market of Russia posted its first gain this fiscal year with 1 percent growth to 485 arrivals. Arrivals from the United States were also up 21 percent to 1,035. (MVA)

Sandra Atalig, administrative specialist at the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Rota, separately said yesterday that the timing of the suspension of Cape Air flights to Rota is also a concern because October is one of the peak months for Rota's tourism.

"It will have an impact on the island's tourism," Atalig said in a phone

interview.

Cape Air brings mostly Japanese tourists to Rota.

Continental, however, said Cape Air will continue to operate multiple daily flights between Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport and Saipan International Airport.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when

ARTICLE

From Page 1

Article 12 restricts ownership of land in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent or NMD.

While others expressed support to the changes contained in House Legislative Initiative 17-3, some opposed them.

There were also others who questioned the timing of the proposed amendment, a year before the CNMI revisits land alienation restrictions.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986.

That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Most of those who testified agreed on at least two things: First, more research and public hearings on House Legislative Initiative 17-3 should be done before it is presented to voters.

Second, House Committee on Natural Resources led by its chair Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) should be commended for conducting public hearings on the initiative, they said.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan), author of HLI 17-3, said the public hearing intends to hear directly from people what they think about the proposed changes to Article 12, "to make this a better initiative."

"From tonight's public hearing, I have a great feeling that a lot of our people are in support of the passage of this initiative... But like what they stated in their testimonies, we need to do a little more research and make it a better initiative before it's presented to the people for their decision," Ogomoro told *Saipan Tribune* after the public hearing.

Santos, in a separate interview on Tuesday night, said the committee has yet to schedule public hearings on Rota and Tinian, and additional ones on Saipan.

Ogomoro said "the more public hearings we have, the better."

HLI 17-3 seeks to amend sections 1, 4 and 5 of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution to make land alienation "perpetual."

The initiative also seeks to allow a person with at least 1 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent or NMD; the existing constitutional provision defines NMD as someone with at least 25 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood, among other things.

Ogomoro's initiative also seeks to allow an NMD corporation to issue non-voting shares to a person of non-NMD without losing its right as a person of NMD.

'Land as source of identity'

Cinta Kaipat, who is an active supporter of indigenous rights, said in 2011, the CNMI could decide either to retain or repeal Article 12.

"I'm here in support of retaining Article 12 but I would like you to consider making some changes to it," Kaipat

testified.

Kaipat, who is the current deputy Labor secretary, said the blood quantum requirement of Article 12 is a source of concern for many.

"And I like that suggestion that as long as you are born of Northern Marianas descent, then you should change the requirement so that we're covered," she said, supporting HLI 17-3's proposal to change the definition of NMD to any person who has at least 1 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood, among other things.

Kaipat said she also likes an earlier suggestion that as long as one could trace his or her lineage to an NMD descent, they should be allowed to own or buy land.

She said by changing this provision, it will not give extra ammunition to those who support a repeal of Article 12 in 2011, when they say Article 12 forces them to dictate to their children who they should marry.

Under the Constitution, those who fall below the 25 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood requirement cannot own land.

Kaipat said blaming Article 12 for economic problems is not correct.

"It's not just about money. There are people here who look at land as a source of retaining their identity and who they are. And if we lose that, if we lose who we are, then we have nothing and that's why it's hard for some people to look at it in terms of dollar figure. It's more than that. It's what binds our people together; it's what give us that identity," she said.

Sixto Igisomar, who testified as a private citizen, said he agrees with what Ogomoro's initiative seeks to do, but he said the measure needs more research and refinement.

He also said this is not the time to fully repeal Article 12, because a lot of people are still not educated about it.

Betsy Cruz, who also testified as a private individual, said if the Legislature decides to abolish Article 12, NMDs will be displaced in their own land.

"Let's not make political decisions to accommodate foreign investors and others. We should first accommodate the local people," she said.

Carolyn Hosono, who introduced herself as a voter, said if there is "no land, there is no culture."

"Why do we need to give land to other people when our own people don't have land. My people are endangered species. Crabs and birds, because they are considered endangered species, have more rights than my children," she said.

She said it's up to NMDs to protect their lands. "It's not being racist or prejudiced if it is about protecting our children."

Mark Anthony Hosono said Article 12's blood requirement is "not the smartest thing."

'Repeal Article 12'

David M. Sablan, an officer of the volunteer group Citizens for Change of Article 12, provided testimony correlating with the objectives for which the group was established.

asked for comment yesterday, said this was one of the issues that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial raised during the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in June.

"However, Continental had indicated that there had been a shift of priorities with the merger efforts between Continental and United Airlines," Demapan said.

"Article 12, if not repealed in its entirety, will in due course alienate substantial number of our present and future generation of the CNMI," he said in his testimony.

Sablan said as future generations go abroad and marry someone who is not NMD, and the bloodline quantum of their children is diluted to less than 25 percent NMD, they can no longer claim ownership to the land intended for them to own.

"If this trend continues, by the fifth or sixth generation onward, a large number of Chamorros and Carolinians can no longer own land in the CNMI," he added.

He said if the land belongs to him, he does not want the government to interfere in his personal and fee simple property.

"If I don't want to sell my property, no one can force me so I am not afraid of the so-called exploitation," he said.

But Article 12 also considers NMD an adopted child of a person of an NMD if adopted under the age of 18, even if that child is of a lineage other than Chamorro or Carolinian.

To many, this is also unfair to those who have Chamorro or Carolinian blood, no matter how low the blood percentage is.

Sablan also said the Housing and Urban Development will not extend Federal Housing Administration insured programs because of Article 12 restrictions.

'Better approach'

Former Public Lands Secretary John S. DelRosario Jr. said the "most troubling" aspect is the timing of the initiative which, if approved by three-fourths of the members of the House and the Senate, would be placed on the ballot in November.

He said the Covenant also provides that the CNMI revisit land alienation restrictions in 2011.

"The more appropriate approach would be for the Legislature, in concert with the administration, to seek for the establishment of a commission whose task is to explain in Chamorro and Carolinian what this constitutional provision entails," DelRosario said in his testimony.

He said there's a powerful reason why he is advocating public education on Article 12.

"Nearly every Chamorro and Carolinian I've talked to about the issue is ignorant what this provision says," he said, referring to the disqualification of those who were not domiciled in the Northern Marianas in 1950, the blood quantum requirement, and the prohibition on freehold interest, among other things.

He said these and other issues require deliberative review and discussion by all key players.

"To rush to judgment would be a purposeful travesty and I am sure you will agree that an informed citizenry is leadership's fiduciary responsibility every step of the way. We can coalesce on this issue before 2011. We can do this between now and summer of 2011," he added.

VISITOR

From Page 1

13,451 visitors, driven by the reinstatement of daily flights from Nagoya.

In addition, nearly 600 Japanese visited the CNMI in June under the auspices of the Tokai Junior Chamber of Commerce. Further growth in arrivals from Japan is projected in July when daily flights from Osaka are also reinstated.

"While we are extremely pleased with the summer recovery in arrivals from Japan, serious concerns remain about the sustainability of both the Nagoya and Osaka flights after October. If the flights are suspended as feared, the drop in airlift from October would once again devastate Japanese arrivals to the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's an urgent priority of the MVA to stabilize our airlift from the key market of Japan to prevent seeing arrivals as flights are suspended or reinstated depending on seasonality."

Arrivals from Korea registered an

Job Corps trainees from CNMI enjoy their summer break

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Five CNMI participants of the Job Corps Training in Hawaii are back for the summer break.

Orville Manglona and Ignacio Manglona of Rota, and Brett Seman, Witzel Cabrera, and Sheila Okaruru of Saipan availed the career technical training programs offered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps Training Center in Maui.

Job Corps is a free education and training program available to individuals aged 16 to 24 years old who are citizens or legal residents of the United States and meet the income qualifications of the program.

Supported by the U.S. Department of Labor, Job Corps aims to provide these young individuals with the right skills that can help

them start a career. It can also assist those who want to earn a high school diploma or GED.

In a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Manglona said he only started with Job Corps this April. He arrived last July 4 and will be staying until July 18.

Manglona found out about the program through the Workforce Investment Agency office on Rota. He is currently taking up business office administration training.

Manglona, who was working for the Rota Resort before joining the program, said he has already learned a lot in his few months with the program.

After the training program, Manglona plans to seek opportunities elsewhere if there are not enough prospects for him here in the CNMI.

Twenty-year old Okaruru

disclosed that through the Job Corps, she was able to obtain a high school diploma.

Seman, who took up an automotive course, said he enjoyed his experience and plans to further his studies at the Job Corps training center in Utah.

Seman said he wants to get certified and find a job in automotive dealers like Toyota or Nissan.

Cabrera, 23, finished his 18-month business training. According to him, he was able to improve his computer skills and got a customer service certification through his stint at JobCorps.

WIA case manager Frances A. Torres is encouraging those who are qualified to take advantage of this job training program. For more information, contact WIA at 664-1707.

Cyclists' group highlights need for awareness campaign on road rules

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cycling enthusiasts and supporters discussed the need to educate cyclists and drivers about their rights and responsibilities as well as increase cycling safety opportunities on Saipan during a meeting held July 8 at the American Memorial Park.

Paul Plunkett, one of the cyclists who participated in the meeting last Thursday, said representatives from the Department of Public Safety and the Marianas Visitors Authority were also in attendance during

the meeting.

The group identified that awareness of road rules for both cyclists and drivers can help reduce bicycle injuries and fatalities caused by running vehicles and it was agreed that road safety can be improved by educating ill-informed and inconsiderate drivers who pose a danger to cyclists.

While cyclists have the right to share the road equally with drivers, it is also imperative that cyclists obey traffic rules so that they can expect drivers to treat them in the same way, the group said.

The group also aims to enhance biking opportunities on island by promoting cycling as a means of transportation and recreation and marketing Saipan as a vacation and cycling destination.

The group recognized that more work needs to be done to increase cycle safety awareness and that the community should work together to make the roads safer for cyclists and drivers alike.

The group will meet again on Sunday, July 18, from 8am to 8:30am at the Last Command Post to discuss their next move.

Donations of \$5 will be accepted to create cycle safety pamphlets and flyers. For more information, e-mail pbpcp@yahoo.com.

'Most govt agencies will not get more than Fitial's budget requests for FY11'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) said most government agencies will not be getting more—or less—than what Gov. Benigno R. Fitial proposed in his Fiscal Year 2011 budget submission for each agency or department.

Many government agencies asked the committee to increase their funding, saying Fitial's budget proposal is not realistic for their respective agencies to fulfill their mandates and to provide service to the public.

Basa's committee wrapped up its meetings with government agencies on their FY 2011 budget issues, and is now deliberating on the budget bill which may be introduced next week.

"The committee members' consensus is to stick with what the governor budget requested is for the agencies and depart-

ments... We heard that it would be difficult for these agencies but there is nowhere else to cut to give them more," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial's budget proposal for FY 2011 of \$149.371 million, of which \$132 million is available for government operations.

The House and the Senate already approved House Concurrent Resolution 17-2, House Draft 1, approving Fitial's \$132 million budget for government operations.

The CNMI government will be forced to shut down if no budget is enacted for FY 2011 following the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 16-11 in the Nov. 7, 2009 general elections.

The initiative removed the provision for a continuing budget resolution and bars any withdrawals from the general funds except through legislative appropriations. It also suspends the salaries of lawmakers if no budget is passed on time.

Flame tree falls, damages 2 vehicles

A flame tree fell on Beach Road, Garapan on Tuesday morning, damaging the vehicle of a federal court employee and another vehicle.

No one was hurt in the accident that happened in front of the Marianas Eye Institute at 7:30am.

The front end of a 2005 Ford Escape was damaged, while a Toyota Camry's windshield was shattered, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Bill Bezzant, systems administrator at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, said he was on his way to work on the Ford Escape being driven by his wife when the accident happened.

Bezzant said they were passing the Marianas Eye Institute when a flame tree suddenly split in half and the first half of its trunk fell on the road, hitting the front end of their vehicle.

Almost at the same time, the second half of the tree fell on the Toyota Camry behind the Ford Escape, shattering its windshield.

Bezzant said Department of Public Works' crew responded quickly and immediately cleared the road by cutting the trunks and removing the debris.

Bezzant said his vehicle was towed because its radiator was busted, while the other driver still managed to drive his car.

The court employee said he usually hates it whenever he sees old flame trees being cut because such trees make Saipan beautiful but it was an old flame tree that almost killed him.

"Maybe I have a new opinion now," said Bezzant, smiling.

Agriculture consultant Sid Cabrera earlier said that fungal disease has been a problem among flame trees in the CNMI. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-084

"GENERAL REPAIR FOR ROTA HIGH SCHOOL, ROTA JR. HIGH SCHOOL AND SINAPALO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair of Rota High School, Rota Jr. High School and Sinapalo Elementary School** on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package are available beginning on July 1, 2010 Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$75.90.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 21, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 27, 2010, 4:30p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-084"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00a.m., local time, August 5, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, August 10, 2010 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Procurement Officer no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on August 5, 2010 and may be transmitted via fax to (670) 664-3791 or email to robert.florian@cnmipss.org. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 5, 2010 and must be received no later than August 17, 2010 in which case all bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m., August 20, 2010

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

McDonald's donates \$6K proceeds from June promotion to American Red Cross



CLARISSA V. DAVID

McDonald's Saipan president and owner Joe Ayuyu hands a check donation of \$6,000 to American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh yesterday at the McDonald's Middle Road location. From left, American Red Cross board member Larry Lee, board member Lou Johnson, Ayuyu, 2010 Liberation Day Queen Josifynn Vivian Quitugua, Hirsh, and McDonald's Saipan manager Marcia Ayuyu.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan president and owner Joe Ayuyu donated \$6,000 to the American Red Cross NMI Chapter during a check presentation yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road location.

The check donation was in conjunction with McDonald's Share-a-Meal promotion in June.

The Share-a-Meal promo offered big discounts on happy meals, breakfast meals, and extra value meals to McDonald's customers all Saturdays of June.

Ayuyu said the promotion was McDonald's way to express their appreciation to the community that also served as a fundraising activity for the American Red Cross NMI Chapter.

"It was not only a small token of appreciation from McDonald's but it was also an event for our community because of all the donated prizes that we were able to give to our customers," said Ayuyu.

According to Ayuyu, it was his wife Marcia who came up with the idea to have the American Red Cross NMI Chapter as the beneficiary of the promo.

Ayuyu said they came up with the amount of donation after sales during the Saturdays of June were tallied.

"We'd like to thank the community for coming in with the numbers to support the promo. I know [the American] Red Cross will put [the donation] to very



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Caramel flavored McCafé Frappe

good use," he said.

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, board members Larry Lee, and Lou Johnson were present to receive the donation from Ayuyu.

"On behalf of all board members and volunteers, we're grateful to the entire staff of McDonald's for supporting the humanitarian efforts of the American Red Cross," said Hirsh as he accepted the check from Ayuyu.

Hirsh recognized McDonald's as a staunch supporter of the community. He added that the American Red Cross is honored to have been chosen as the recipient of the donation.

Visiting McDonald's staff

Members of McDonald's Hawaii and Guam Offices were also in attendance during the check presentation.

They were Veronica Kaneku, president and managing director

of McDonald's Hawaii; Martin Lau, director of operations of McDonald's Hawaii; Pacifico Martir, Guam operations consultant; and Carl Guhl, distribution manager of Golden State Foods, which is a supplier for McDonald's.

Kaneku said they were on Saipan for a routine visit. The group arrived yesterday morning and left for Guam in the afternoon.

Kaneku, who has been with McDonald's for 33 years, said she has worked with Ayuyu since 1993 and knew about his commitment in reaching out to the community.

"We're so proud of him for all the work he's done," said Kaneku.

Latest treat

Local patrons of one of the world's largest fast food chain can look forward to a new product that McDonald's Saipan plans to introduce in the coming days.

Anna Olaes, marketing officer of McDonald's Saipan, disclosed that the frosty treat McCafé Frappe is McDonald's Saipan's next big thing this summer.

The coffee-chocolate richness of this supremely comforting thirst-quencher comes in two flavors (mocha and caramel) and in three sizes (12 oz, 16 oz, and 22 oz).

Olaes assures the community will enjoy this flavorful cold beverage topped with whipped cream as it will be reasonably priced.

Five-day trial seen in extortion case vs cop

The prosecution and lawyer for a police officer facing extortion charges in federal court discussed yesterday the preparation for the jury trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley and attorney David Banes, counsel for Christopher Leon Guerrero, talked about the length of trial before U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Robert J. Bryan.

O'Malley and Banes believe

that the trial would not take longer than five days. The jury trial was set for July 19.

Leon Guerrero is accused of committing extortion on Sept. 15, 2009 through Oct. 9, 2009.

The indictment alleged that on June 13, 2009, he used his position as a police officer to obtain a bribe from an illegal taxicab driver in exchange for dismissing the driver's criminal case.

The Federal Bureau of Inves-

tigation arrested him on Nov. 16, 2009. He is out on bail.

According to the FBI, Leon Guerrero used his position at the Department of Public Safety to demand and receive payments ranging from \$300 to \$700 from illegal taxicab drivers in exchange for dismissing their criminal cases and returning their seized vehicles to the drivers.

Leon Guerrero pleaded not guilty. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-085

"GENERAL REPAIR FOR TINIAN HIGH SCHOOL AND TINIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for **General Repair of Tinian High School and Tinian Elementary School** on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work and project package are available beginning on July 1, 2010 Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$63.40.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on July 22, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Tinian High School Library on Tinian. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than July 27, 2010, 4:30p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-085"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:30a.m., local time, August 5, 2010. If no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be publicly opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, August 10, 2010 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, NMI Retirement Fund Building.

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/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

LibDay royal entourage to participate in Guam festivities



ROSELYN MONROYO

In this file photo, Liberation Day Queen Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua, left, and Royal Princess Rayna Anabeth Deleon Guerrero Chong pose for the *Saipan Tribune* after the coronation night held July 3, 2010.

PSS posts surge in number of highly qualified teachers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System recorded a 77-percent increase in its number of highly qualified teachers in the 20 public schools it runs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The figure reflects a four-point increase from last May's 73 percent.

PSS employs 544 teachers. It now has 417 highly qualified classroom teachers against 127 non-HQTs.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday she expects the number to grow as more teachers are scheduled to take the Praxis tests on July 24.

The Board of Education has set three requirements for a teacher to be deemed highly qualified: passing two Praxis tests, obtaining a degree, and acquiring valid teaching certificates.

Board of Education members were elated upon learning of the strides PSS has been making to meet the July 2011 for all PSS personnel to be HQTs and are optimistic that all teachers under PSS will comply with the standards before the deadline.

Of the 417 HQT count, 206 are in the elementary school level, 51 in middle schools, 123 in high schools, and 37 in special education and early intervention programs.

The U.S. Department of Edu-

cation has given CNMI public schools until July 2011 to comply with the highly qualified personnel mandate of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Also included in the federal deadline are school administrators and school counselors.

Sablan said last week that PSS and the board will not ask for an extension of the July deadline and that PSS will not hire educators who fail to meet the full requirements by then.



Sablan

Ten months before the deadline, Sablan said that PSS will focus on assisting non-HQTs to meet the requirements.

Highly qualified teachers are entitled to a minimum salary of \$28,000 per annum and a maximum of \$47,000, depending on qualifications and credentials under the compensation policy approved in 2006.

Meantime, 13 PSS school counselors—or 62 percent—are now classified as highly qualified as of April. PSS has a total of 21 counselors and eight of them have yet to comply with the standard.

Of the 42 school administrators employed by PSS, 14 are classified as highly qualified. This translates to 33 percent of the total principal and vice principal population. Non-highly qualified school administrators total 28 individuals, or 67 percent.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the 2010 Liberation Day Royal Court can now heave a sigh of relief after being assured by the Saipan Mayor's Office that all of them will participate in Guam's Liberation Day festivities on July 21.

Mayor Donald Flores and some of his staff met with the members of the 2010 Liberation Day Royal Court, their families, and representatives yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"We explained to them that the final decision is to send the [2010 Liberation Day] Queen and the Royal Court to Guam," Flores told *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

2010 Liberation Day Queen

Josifynn Vivian "Peachy" Quitugua and the rest of the Liberation Day Royal Court will fly to Guam Tuesday morning. They are tentatively scheduled to return to Saipan on July 22.

All 10 girls will be accompanied by two members of the Liberation Day committee that are yet to be identified, said Flores. He did not specify the total cost of the trip.

According to Flores, family members of the Liberation Day Royal Court who wish to join the young ladies in their Guam trip will have to pay for their own expenses.

Flores also said their office is working closely with the Guam Liberation Day Committee and some of the mayors in Guam to finalize the arrangements for the

Liberation Day Queen and the Royal Court.

He added that the Guam Liberation Day committee will accommodate the transportation needs of the CNMI Liberation Day Queen and Royal Court for the parade.

Jeff Tomokane, chief of Administration and Operations at the Saipan Mayor's Office, said the money raised from the Liberation Day ticket sales would cover the expenses for the Guam trip.

Dwayne Davis of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the 10 girls will fly to Guam to participate in their Liberation Day festival.

Davis, who personally sponsored 2nd runner up Angela

Bermudes Aldan, said they became concerned when word got out that not all the girls would go to Guam.

"Our understanding is they will take only the [Liberation Day] Queen and the [Royal] Princess. Parents got together to express their concerns. We're glad they listened to us," he said.

Tomokane also confirmed that majority of the Liberation Day Royal Court members have received their 20-percent share on the Liberation Day ticket sales.

Only the Rota and Tinian candidates have yet to receive their share on ticket sales.

Tomokane said they are now making arrangements for the Rota and Tinian candidates to receive their checks.


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Liberation of Guam, Battle for NMI marked at Tomb of the Unknowns



From left, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Marianas.

Washington, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan came together in a wreath laying ceremony yesterday to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Marianas.

The ceremony was held at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Also in attendance were Wallace "Chip" Gregson, Assistant Secretary of Defense

for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs; Frankie Reed, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands at the U.S. Department of State; retired Brig. Gen. Ben Blaz, former Guam delegate; and ambassadors Hersey Kyota of the Republic of Palau and Yosio George of the Federated States of Micronesia.

"The annual wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns honors the sacrifices of the people of Guam who endured occupation dur-

ing World War II and the liberators who sacrificed on our behalf on July 21, 1944," said Bordallo. "This year is the 66th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam, and it is important that our community continues to honor their courage, remember their sacrifices, and appreciate the freedom that we enjoy today."

The wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of Unknowns is part of several annual commemorative events in Washington, D.C. to honor the Chamorros in Guam who endured 32

months of enemy occupation during World War II, and the Marines, soldiers, sailors, coast guardsmen, and airmen who fought to liberate Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Today, July 15, 2010, the Guam Society of America will be hosting a reception in honor of the 66th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam and the Battle for the Northern Marianas in the Caucus Room of the historic Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Bordallo and Sablan are honorary hosts of the event. (PR)



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JULY 15, 1999

CNMI seeks \$200K partial payment for hosting illegals

The Northern Marianas is ready to bill the federal government about \$200,000 as its initial request for payment on the costs of hosting more than 500 illegal Chinese immigrants on Tinian. But the island government has estimated a total of \$599,000 in expenditures which it incurred during the two-month operations assisting U.S. authorities, according to Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen. The Department of Finance has compiled all the records and documents from all government agencies involved in the operations, but it is currently trying to finalize these papers before the Commonwealth asks for reimbursement from Washington.

DOLI accused of illegal search and seizure

A garment firm asked the Superior Court yesterday to declare illegal the Department of Labor and Immigration's raid that yielded hundreds of textile products and 28 suspected illegal workers last year. Anner Corp., which operates Suntex, said the department agents' raid was "wrongful" as it violated the CNMI law against illegal search and seizure as well as the company owners' Fourth Amendment rights under the US Constitution. In response to the charges filed in October 1998 by DOLI through the Attorney General's Office, Suntex denied the government's allegation that it was harboring illegal aliens.

JULY 15, 2002

Micronesian legends book available

The NMI Council for the Humanities has announced the publication of a new book that highlights the oral traditions of Micronesia. *Micronesian Legends*, compiled by Nancy and William Flood and Beret Strong, includes traditional legends of the islands presented in cultural contexts that integrate history, geography, and economics to emphasize the importance of both modern and traditional knowledge. The 200-page book, published through Bess Press in Hawaii, contains stories from the Northern Marianas, Guam, Chuuk, Palau, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and the Marshall Islands, and is attractively illustrated with woodblock prints by Connie Adams.

PSS finalizes Head Start improvement plan

The Public School System is expected to submit this week a Quality Improvement Plan containing corrective actions pursuant to the federal government's assessment of the PSS' areas of weaknesses in the local Head Start Program. PSS Associate Commissioner Rita A. Sablan plans to transmit the QIP today to beat the July 27, 2002 deadline imposed by the Department of Health and Human Services Head Start Office, Administration for Children and Families, Region 9 in San Francisco. Sablan, head of the PSS Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office, said the QIP essentially embodies proposed changes to three key areas pointed out by the federal agency to include policies and procedures, training and monitoring.

JULY 15, 2003

CPA: Where are our needed lands?

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reiterated its call to the central government to help it obtain the additional lands needed for the much-delayed container yard expansion project that is anticipated to turn the Saipan Seaport into Micronesia's transshipment hub. The container yard expansion project has been in the back burner for more than five years since the CPA floated the idea of making the Saipan Seaport a major hub for containers from Asia, the U.S. mainland, and other Pacific island nations. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas lamented the slow process of acquiring the needed public lands despite efforts of the ports authority and the Legislature.

WASC: NMC using correct standards for midterm review

In essence, the Northern Marianas College is using both the new and old accreditation standards as indicated by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. ACCJC executive director Barbara Beno said in a recent letter that the 1996 Standards, as revised in 2001, "are the appropriate framework on which to base the midterm report" of the NMC. She made the remark in response to Saipan Rep. Stanley Torres, who inquired from her as to why the NMC, while claiming to have been using the new 2004 standards since their adoption in July 2002, is actually using the 2001 revised standards in its on-going accreditation assessment. Beno explained that the NMC is currently working on its midterm report, which contains an update on the progress it has made in addressing the recommendations made by WASC in its last evaluation of the college back in 2000.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian summer program to show *Alice in Wonderland*

The Tinian Public Library, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is inviting the Tinian community and visitors to the island this Saturday to the Saturday summer outdoor film, part of the Tinian Summer Books and Films Series.

The film shown will be *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Tim Burton, and based on the book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, starting at 7pm on Saturday, July 17, at the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion. The event is free of charge, and open to the public. (PR)

Today's SHRM meeting tackles changes in EEO law

An official of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will be the guest speaker of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter during its July general

membership lunch meeting today, July 15, at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Gregory L. McClinton, a senior trial attorney for EEOC's Honolulu Office, will talk about changes to the Equal Employment Opportunity Law that affect the CNMI.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited; reserve a seat by contacting SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president Polly Deleon Guerrero at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (SHRM)

Kagman Elementary School

The "Take Home Summer Backpack" program has arrived. Parents and guardians are required to attend a one-hour training session today on how to use these educational materials at home during the summer break. Your child will get the "Take Home

Summer Backpack" provided the parent or the guardian attends the training on any of the following schedule:

■ July 15, 2010: 4th and 5th grade, 9-10am, cafeteria. Repeat for any parents that have not attended any of the session is at 2pm-3pm, cafeteria. (PR)

Tinian public hearing rescheduled

The public hearing on long-term status of guest workers in the CNMI that was scheduled for July 14, 2010, on Tinian has been rescheduled to Friday, July 23, 2010, 6pm-9pm, Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider located at the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial building, Capital Hill, Saipan before or during the public hearing. Oral testimony may be presented during the public hearing. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform Hofschneider's office no later than 24 hours prior to the public hearing. (PR)

Calling on all court translator, interpreters

The CNMI Superior Court is in the process of updating its list of translators and interpreters. Those who are on the Superior Court's list of translators and interpreters or are interested in being on the court's list are being asked to visit the Office of the Clerk of Court at the Court House on Beach Road in Susupe and pick up an application form.

A person who has previously performed translation or interpretation services for the court but who has not reregistered in the last 30 days is being asked to also file an application to be certified by the court. New applicants with foreign language skills are encouraged to apply. Bring a copy of one's photo ID. Application processing is free.

For more information ask for Elsa Duenas-Nieto or Julie Ilo when contacting the Office of the Clerk of Court at 236-9765. (PR)

Korean MICE travel to the CNMI continues growth

The Northern Mariana Islands is growing in popularity with Koreans as a destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences or Exhibitions—or MICE—travel. In June 2010, the Marianas

Visitors Authority attracted six MICE tours from Korea, bringing 549 business travelers to this resort destination. As part of its travel trade marketing in Korea, the MVA has been actively woo-

ing business travelers through its MICE Incentive Group Support program.

The companies arriving in June were Korea Life and Korea Life-Busan, Lotte DFS,

Shinhan Life, AJ World, and Hyundai Life-Busan.

“With Korean outbound travel again on the rise, this has been an ideal time for us to entice companies to travel to the Northern Mariana Islands,” said MVA managing director Perry Teno-

rio. “The significant increase in arrivals that we’ve seen in recent month related to employee training is a direct result of our volume incentive program.”

Business travel to the Northern Marianas from Korea increased 213 percent in April

2010 and 123 percent in May 2010 compared to April and May last year.

The MVA provides shell leis and Korean Guidebooks and maps for all the groups, as well as welcome banners and island tours upon requested. (MVA)




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eighty-eight employees of Korea Life-Busan company visited Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on June 17-21, 2010. The group was part of 549 Korean MICE travelers attracted to the islands in June by the Marianas Visitors Authority's MICE Group Incentive Support program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


One hundred employees of Korea Life company at Banzai Cliff on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The Korea-based employees visited the island from June 5-8, 2010, on MICE travel supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2010-X-062 for the proposed construction of sixty(60) 2-3 bedroom apartment units within six floors, parking area on the ground floor, roof mounted generator, roof water catchment system and tanks and solar water heating panels on 4,254 square meters of land located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center, in Susupe, Saipan.**

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this proposed quarry project. The project file is open for review 7:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M. Monday–Friday at CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Saipan Office located at Spring Plaza in Chalan Laulau, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 if you require further information regarding this notice of public hearing.

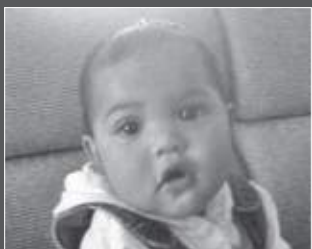
Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz
Director
Coastal Resources Management

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Happy birthday to Beverly M. Camacho, who is celebrating her special day today, July 15, 2010. May you enjoy your day with laughter and fun, with all the joyous moments you will have. God bless and may you have more wonderful birthdays to come. We love you Mom! You're the greatest! Greetings come from your loving husband Francisco M. Camacho, Kimmy, Breanna, Frankie, Shawn, Vanessa, Shalei and the *familia*!



Belated happy first birthday to Shacey Sablan! We wish you many more enjoyable birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from Nina, Nino, Mommy, Daddy, and the Sablan family!



Belated happy birthday to our big girl, Torinett Camacho! Hope you enjoyed your time at PIC yesterday. We love you! Greetings come from the "Pak-Pak" *familia*.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

July 15, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of Representative Rafael S. Demapan	07/09/10 SSm-2010-X-060	Sugar Dock Rehabilitation	Chalan Kanoa	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/12/10)*
2. Miyuki Eto	07/12/10 SSm-2010-X-061	Filming	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/12/10)
3. Triple J Enterprises	06/28/10 SMS-2010-X-062	60 Three-Bedrooms Apartments	Chalan Kanoa	Major Sitting	Under Review*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sittings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 167Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Living past 100: Study casts some light on genetics and longevity, but just how useful is such information?

The very, very old are different from you and me, but it has more to do with what's inside them than with the number of wrinkles or the probability of having a Facebook account. A study published last week in the journal *Science* found that people who live to three-digit ages in relatively good health have at least some of 150 different genetic markers linked to extreme longevity.

The Boston University scientists who reported the markers don't know exactly how they work, and their research has since come under attack by geneticists who criticize the methodology. But whether or not this particular study withstands scrutiny, the search for old-age genes will continue. And that raises a question beyond science: How much about our futures do we really want to know?

People have long yearned to know how long they'll be around. An old European legend holds that if you hear a cuckoo, you can ask it how long you will live and then count your remaining years by the number of times the bird cuckoos. The BU scientists' idea was to create a free online test on the website of the New England Centenarian Study for people who want to look into their own futures, although the main purpose would be to add to the store of research information. But the word "free" is relative; in order to take the test, people would have to provide a copy of their complete genome, which can cost thousands of dollars.

Still, even if you happen to have your complete genome lying around the house, the decision wouldn't be easy. If the genetic oracle concluded that you were among the lucky few, what would you do? Would you be imprudent enough to take up smoking, figuring your genes would take care of you, or be smart enough to finally start putting the full legal amount into your 401(k)? If you lacked the genes, you might figure you didn't have a chance anyway, and so might as well take up race-car driving.

The Greek tragedies are rife with characters who ran into trouble trying to avoid their destinies—Oedipus, anyone?—but that was long before we knew so much about how environment and lifestyle affect longevity. Even as science unravels the mysteries of life, we're lucky to have some mystery left. What we need to know, more than what our genetic markers say about our chances, is to exercise, buckle our seat belts and remember that no matter how many years are left to us, the number is finite—and never so distant that we should neglect to appreciate today.

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MARGULIES
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A CNMI issue

This is perhaps the most important article that I've ever written because it could affect the future of every person in the CNMI. Before reading it, I want to give a disclaimer that I am acting on my own as a concerned citizen. These views are solely my own, and they do not necessarily represent the views of the Board of Regents, the administration, nor any other person at Northern Marianas College.

The recent action to place Northern Marianas College on show-cause is really upsetting, not only for the college, but it also impacts the entire community. I'd like to share what the late Paul Harvey used to call "the rest of the story" to provide greater perspective on the matter.

The action occurred after a special accreditation evaluation visit that was prompted by newspaper articles and unsolicited e-mails. Well, is it possible that some, if not most, of those unsolicited e-mails came from individuals who called themselves the "NMC Collective?" These were individuals who used whatever means necessary to keep Dr. Fernandez in power (not implying that Dr. Fernandez had any involvement). In a May 16, 2010 *Tribune* article the NMC Collective described themselves as "a loose association of current and former NMC faculty, staff, and students" and they claimed responsibility for sending hate e-mails to regent King and interim president Cabrera by stating: "We have attacked you as a group and we have attacked you as individual members."

This small group stooped to using threats and intimidation, primarily through anonymous e-mails. If you recall, the college was closed down for an afternoon in January with a bomb threat made through an anonymous e-mail in order to stop the Board of Regents from meeting to discuss issues concerning Dr. Fernandez prior to her suspension. DPS and the FBI were called in to investigate this serious matter, and the board and other individuals should be praised for not allowing the NMC Collective to browbeat them with terrorist tactics. However, it appears that the NMC Collective did achieve their objective to influence a "fact finding" visit.

There is no question that there was internal conflict within the college while Dr. Fernandez was president, and the NMC Collective proves that point. The numerous non-renewals, firings, and forced resignations created not only high turnover and job instability, but also created internal factions within the college that pitted people either for or against Dr. Fernandez. The "final straw" came with the infamous non-renewal of NMC's living legend, Sam McPhetres, which shortly thereafter raised the ire of the community and prompted a vote of "no confidence" by a faculty assembly in the president and her leadership ability.

The role of the Board of Regents is to set policy and provide guidance while letting the administration deal with the hands-on issues during normal circumstances. However, we were dealing with anything but normal circumstances. Another role of the board is to

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, business instructor and consultant. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this or other articles at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



ensure the stability of the college, and NMC at that time was more like a ship in a severe storm with no one at the helm to steer us into smooth waters.

Did the board step in to intervene during the storm? Yes, and thank God they were willing to step up to the plate during this critical time and make some tough decisions, rather than sit back and let the college sink into the abyss. If anything, instead of criticizing the board, they should be commended for taking a leadership role during this crisis to help the college achieve stability and get back on track so it could focus fully on its mission.

I was curious about how people really felt about the situation at NMC, and I wanted their input on positive as well as negative issues with the college. So in May 2010, I sent a survey to college students and personnel, and I also interviewed individuals in the community. The 32 individuals who responded were allowed to reveal their identity or remain anonymous in the survey, and I assured everyone that their responses would remain confidential so they could be open and honest.

Most of the comments were informative, with some praising the board, faculty and staff at the college. Many mentioned the importance of maintaining accreditation. Others pointed out problem areas that needed to be corrected to make the institution a better place and some expressed the need to get a new president on board right away, **but not one person criticized the board for their actions with the former president.**

Now the college is faced with a very serious situation that could result in the loss of accreditation. If this occurs, the impact on the CNMI could be catastrophic. Millions of dollars from tuition, fees, salaries, grants, and local and federal financial aid flow throughout the CNMI to pay rent, buy food, and provide business and government revenues. Losing accreditation is a very serious matter. Furthermore, it could be the final death blow to our already extremely fragile economy.

In addition, the loss of accreditation would destroy the jobs and lives of hundreds of people who would be forced to leave the CNMI. These are people who go to your churches, are customers of your businesses, have children in your schools, and make a solid contribution to the community. It would also dash the future career

See ISSUE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Crimes and sponsors

“GAO estimates that [the] mandatory disclosure requirement [of a U.S. citizen sponsor’s criminal background] will cover about 20% of family-based beneficiaries based on fiscal year 2005 data.”

—General Accountability Office report GAO-06-735, *Circumstances Under Which Petitioners’ Sex Offenses May Be Disclosed to Beneficiaries* (June 2006)

We’ve written several times about the difficulties that may be faced by green card and naturalization applicants who have a criminal history or otherwise find it difficult to establish “good moral character” to the satisfaction of USCIS or the U.S. Department of State. Today we’ll discuss the flip side: what happens when a family-based immigration beneficiary has a perfectly good record, but the sponsor has a criminal record, perhaps is still in jail? The answer may surprise, and even shock you.

USCIS is concerned to the point of fussiness about the criminal history of an applicant, whether the applicant was actually arrested or not. No matter how minor the offense, the applicant will have to demonstrate that he or she still has “good moral character,” and may even have to go through a painstaking and expensive application for waiver of some ground of inadmissibility. USCIS has conducted background checks on immigration beneficiaries for many years, well before Sept. 11. But it was not until 2002 that USCIS began to look into the background of the beneficiaries’ U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident sponsors. Now USCIS conducts background security checks on all sponsors, including U.S. citizens. USCIS starts these checks using its primary inspection tool, the Inter-agency Border Inspection System (IBIS), a mega-database that is linked to multiple agencies’ criminal databases, including the FBI’s National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR). If the IBIS query on a sponsor produces a “hit” indicating that the sponsor may have a criminal background, the information is forwarded to a USCIS Fraud Detection & National Security (FDNS) officer for more thorough investigation. FDNS may refer the sponsor to law enforcement or, if the sponsor is a permanent resident, for removal (deportation). If neither is appropriate, then the USCIS adjudicator reviews the petition to determine whether the relationship between sponsor and beneficiary is valid, and either approves or denies the application.

What else does the government do with this information? Under the Privacy Act of 1974, until fairly recently, the answer was “nothing,” unless USCIS (or Department of State) determined that “compelling circumstances” existed, “affecting the health and safety of the beneficiary,” triggering an exception to the Privacy Act. Now, the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act of 2005 (IMBRA) requires disclosure of a sponsor’s criminal history, including sex crimes, to prospective immigrant fiancées, some spouses and some minor children. That’s the “mandatory disclosure” in the quote at the beginning of this article, and that mandatory disclosure is estimated to cover a full 20 percent of

all family-based beneficiaries. Even where mandatory disclosure is not required, the discretionary exception to the Privacy Act may result in disclosure to the beneficiaries.

The GAO report on disclosure of sponsors’ sex offenses to beneficiaries may be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06735.pdf>. At the time that the report was published, there was no requirement that an immigration application be denied for any sponsor’s criminal history. That is still the case. We have received inquiries from prospective immigrants whose U.S. citizen spouses were in jail for serious crimes, including murder and major fraud convictions, which would have disqualified any beneficiary—but does not in any way disqualify the sponsors. That is, for most crimes, the fact that the sponsor committed the crime is not solely sufficient ground to deny an immigration application. Of course, for most sponsors’ criminal convictions, the USCIS or Department of State adjudicator is going to take a close look at the parties’ qualifying relationship, and at other factors such as the minimum financial capability requirements. It may be difficult to prove that a sponsor has the ability to support an applicant if he is in prison and earning no income. It seems, however, that the government recognizes that even criminals have real family relationships, and that no one can be a criminal 100 percent of the time.

But now there is a major exception to the general rule: sex crimes committed by the sponsor will disqualify the sponsor. In July 2006, a month after the GAO report came out, the government passed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, one part of which, titled “Immigration Reforms to Prevent Sex Offenders from Abusing Children,” contains two important changes to the Immigration & Nationality Act. Section 402(a) of the Adam Walsh Act prohibits U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have been convicted of “any specified offense against a minor” from filing *any* family-based immigration petition, whether for a child or an adult, and no matter what the relationship. Section 401 of the Adam Walsh Act also makes an alien convicted of a sex crime deportable for failing to register as a sex offender.

The Act defines a minor as someone under age 18. What is a “specified offense against a minor”?

Kidnapping or false imprisonment (except by a parent or guardian);

- Solicitation of sexual conduct;
- Use in a sexual performance;
- Solicitation of prostitution;
- “Video voyeurism” as defined by U.S. law;
- Possession, production or distribution of child pornography;
- Criminal sexual conduct involving a minor, or using the internet to facilitate or attempt such conduct;
- Any conduct that, by its nature, is a sex offense against a minor.

USCIS is aware that this is a very broad list, with only one of the “specified offenses” actually identified by name. This is

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

because federal, state and foreign criminal laws may name the offenses differently; USCIS looks to see whether the elements of each offense are substantially similar to those named in the Adam Walsh Act. Once that is determined, the government will bar the petition, and may also take steps to revoke an already-approved petition if information providing “good and sufficient cause” for revocation later comes to light. USCIS’ guidance regarding the Adam Walsh Act, in the form of a February 8, 2007 memorandum from Michael Aytes (who was on Saipan for the opening of the Application Support Center in March 2009), can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2d6fqnd>.

The chief purpose of the Adam Walsh Act is to protect children, and to keep them (and other innocent family members) from suffering harm by falling into the hands of sexual predators. The purpose of IMBRA is to avoid the exploitation of “mail-order brides” who may not have any way to check out the background of their fiancés. When these protections fail, then the social services provided by our society must step up to help, but that is often small comfort after harm is done. For aliens who have suffered abuse, there is also the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which is not limited to women victims; we have written about VAWA a number of times. There are other federal laws protecting victims, providing nonimmigrant visas for victims of human trafficking (T-visas) or criminal domestic violence (U-visas). With IMBRA and the Adam Walsh Act, the U.S. government has made a policy decision—the right one, we think—to try to stop at least one class of criminal sponsor from bringing victims into the U.S.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lex-marianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

The lessons of history

In response to Rep. Stanley Torres: Thanks, sir! You get it! I am glad to see that there are some in our Legislature who understand the true meaning of our right to keep and bear arms as enumerated in our Constitution.

Other people throughout history have also understood the importance of an armed citizenry as well. The following are a few quotes from various great thinkers from the past, who had their thoughts on the subject.

Here is what the great philosopher Aristotle said about an armed people: “Both oligarch and tyrant mistrust the people, and therefore deprive them of arms.”

Noah Webster said this: “Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed, as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops.”

Robert Heinlein, the great science fiction novelist said: “Whether the authorities be invaders or merely local tyrants, the effect

of such [gun control] laws is to place the individual at the mercy of the state, unable to resist.” He went on to say this as well, “An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good when one may have to back up his acts with his life.”

Hitler had this to say, “The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to permit the conquered Eastern peoples to have arms. History teaches that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so.”

And of course, James Madison, principal author of our Constitution, had this to say: “Americans have the right and advantage of being armed—unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.”

The fact is that in every genocide, which occurred in modern times, (Armenia, 1915-1917, 1.5 million killed; Soviet Union under Stalin, 20 million killed; Nazi Germany, 20 million killed; Red China under Mao, 30 million killed; Cambodia under Pol Pot, 2 million killed; Rwanda, 1994, 800,000 killed, etc...etc...etc...), the government first disarmed its citizens through gun control laws

lands to pursue a degree because of job or family responsibilities.

It’s easy to criticize the actions of others and assign blame to certain individuals or groups that might have placed the college in this situation; however, this is not the time to sit back like a spectator and watch the outcome or throw barbs of criticism. Your full support is

before the slaughter.

Now, I do not believe that the U.S. government is, or would become tyrannical like that. But then again our first gun laws were enacted just after the Civil War, and were aimed at keeping newly freed slaves from getting guns. These were some of the Jim Crow laws. Other laws in American history that banned gun ownership were aimed at the Indians.

American citizens I think today will not put up with tyranny. Our duty is to educate ourselves, vote, and be vigilant. When people participate democracy usually works. But it is comforting to me at least to know that next to the ballot box, we have the ammo box to fall back on if the democratic process does fail, as it has in other places and times. That is what our Founding Fathers, men like Madison, Addams, Washington, Jefferson, etc., believed. That is what I believe. Why? Because I have studied history. I used to teach it in fact.

David Radich

Sadog Tasi, Saipan

ISSUE

From Page 10






goals and dreams of hundreds of students who cannot leave the is-

critically needed. The college, community and government must be united in the effort to resolve this matter quickly. This is not only a “Northern Marianas College issue,” it is an issue for every single person who lives on Saipan, Tinian or Rota, or who lives off-island and calls the CNMI home.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼73
Kosrae	Rain	▲89 ▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼77

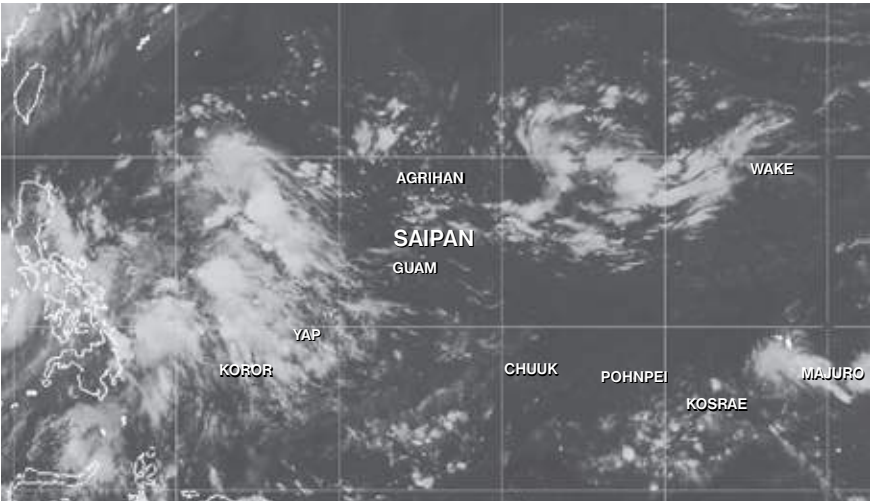
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲59 ▼48
Beijing	Showers	▲85 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
London	Rain	▲71 ▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲84 ▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼82
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼75
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼74
Paris	Showers	▲78 ▼59
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲95 ▼74
Salem	Sunny	▲86 ▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼58
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼76
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲94 ▼80

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
9:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
4:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
11:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough stretches west-southwestward from 25N170E to an upper low centered southwest of Minami Tori Shima near 20N151E to beyond 130E at 18N. Divergent upper-level winds near the low and trough are producing widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Minami Tori Shima between 23N and 14N from 151E to 163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located over Koror and Yap between 21N and 7N from 131E to 139E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro and just southeast of Kwajalein within 50 miles of a line from 8N167E to 6N171E to 9N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Thursday	9:06 AM	9:39 PM
Friday	10:04 AM	10:22 PM
Saturday	11:02 AM	11:05 PM
Sunday	11:58 AM	11:50 PM
Monday	12:55 PM	-

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 10, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 9:45am 2:35pm Daily DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily	NAGOYA-SAIPAN DL641 9:10am 1:45am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ606/703 3:30pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL630/641 6:30am 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO DL172/288 7:40am 1:10am+1 Daily via NRT C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05am 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ606/723 3:30pm 10:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Gulf gusher to keep flowing as cap test delayed

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A pivotal moment in the Gulf oil crisis hit an unexpected snag Tuesday evening when officials announced they needed more time before they could begin choking off the geyser of crude at the bottom of the sea.

BP and federal officials did not say what prompted the decision or when the testing would begin on a new, tighter-fitting cap it had just installed on the blown-out well. The oil giant had been scheduled to start slowly shutting off valves on the 75-ton cap, aiming to stop the flow of oil for the first time in three months.

It seemed BP was on track to start the test Tuesday afternoon. The cap, lowered over the blown-out well Monday night, is designed to be a temporary fix until the well is plugged underground.

A series of methodical, preliminary steps were completed before progress stalled. Engineers spent hours on a seismic survey, creating a map of the rock under the sea floor to spot potential dangers, like gas pockets. It also provides a baseline to compare with later surveys during and after the test to see if the



pressure on the well is causing underground problems.

An unstable area around the wellbore could create bigger problems if the leak continued elsewhere in the well after the cap valves were shut, experts said.

"It's an incredibly big concern," said Don Van Nieuwenhuise, director of Professional Geoscience Programs at the University of Houston. "They need to get a scan of

where things are, that way when they do pressure testing, they know to look out for ruptures or changes."

It was unclear whether there was something in the results of the mapping that prompted officials to delay. Earlier, BP Vice President Kent Wells said he hadn't heard what the results were, but he felt "comfortable that they were good."

National Incident Commander Thad Allen met with

the federal energy secretary and the head of the U.S. Geological Survey as well as BP officials and other scientists after the mapping was done.

"As a result of these discussions, we decided that the process may benefit from additional analysis," Allen said in a statement. He didn't specify what type of analysis would be done, but said work would continue until Wednesday.

Assuming BP gets the green light to do the cap testing after the extra analysis is finished, engineers can finally begin to shut the openings in the 75-ton metal stack of pipes and valves gradually, one at a time, while watching pressure gauges to see if the cap holds or any new leaks erupt.

The operation could last anywhere from six to 48 hours.

If the cap works, it will enable BP to stop the oil from gushing into the sea, either by holding all the oil inside the well machinery like a stopper or, if the pressure is too great, channeling some through pipes to as many as four collection ships.

Along the Gulf Coast, where the spill has heavily damaged the region's vital tourism and

fishing industries, people anxiously awaited the outcome of the painstakingly slow work.

"I don't know what's taking them so long. I just hope they take care of it," said Lanette Eder, a vacationing school nutritionist from Hoschton, Ga., who was walking on the white sand at Pensacola Beach, Fla.

"I can't say that I'm optimistic—it's been, what, 84 days now?—but I'm hopeful," said Nancy LaNasa, 56, who runs a yoga center in Pensacola.

The cap is just a stopgap measure. To end the leak for good, the well needs to be plugged at the source. BP is drilling two relief wells through the seafloor to reach the broken well, possibly by late July, and jam it permanently with heavy drilling mud and cement. After that, the Gulf Coast faces a long cleanup.

In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the effort to put the containment cap into operation "represents the best news that we've had in the preceding 85 days."

"We are approaching what we hope is the next phase in the Gulf—understanding that that next phase is likely to take many years," he added.

'Twisted parliament' bodes ill for Japan's economy

TOKYO (AP)—In Japanese, it's called a "twisted parliament," and it doesn't bode well for the country's future.

The Democratic Party-led coalition enjoys a comfortable majority in the powerful lower house, but it lost control of the upper house in an election this week. If past experience holds, the twisted parliament is a formula for policy gridlock, because both houses must approve legislation.

The predicament, which has plagued earlier governments too, comes at a time when Japan badly needs action. The world's second-largest economy faces serious challenges, from reducing its bulging budget deficit and reviving growth to fighting deflation and shoring up its social security system as the popu-

lation ages and shrinks.

"This is potentially very bad news for Japan as a whole on various fronts, because very little can move ahead as far as government policies are concerned," said Takahira Ogawa, an analyst at Standard & Poor's. "There might be some more years wasted, which is a pity for the country."

Ogawa warned that Japan's AA credit rating could be lowered if the twisted parliament keeps the Democrats from reining in government debt—which is twice the nation's GDP—and carrying out other reforms. A lower credit rating would raise borrowing costs, adding to the country's budget woes.

The Democratic Party of Japan and its small coalition partner lost 12 seats in Sunday's upper house

election, leaving it with 110 seats in the 242-member chamber. In the lower house, the coalition is short of the two-thirds majority needed to override upper house opposition to a bill.

Control of the upper house—often seen as a barometer of confidence in the prime minister or ruling party—has proved an elusive goal for governments over the past 20 years.

Japan has had twisted parliaments three other times since 1989, and each time the ruling coalition struggled to get anything done.

In the most recent case, former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda quit in frustration in 2008 after facing repeated difficulties passing bills through an opposition-dominated upper house.

Major banking bill faces final vote this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Tuesday secured the 60 votes he needs in the Senate to pass a sweeping overhaul of financial regulations, all but ensuring that he soon will sign into law one of the top initiatives of his presidency.

With the votes in hand to overcome Republican delaying tactics, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Tuesday took steps to end debate on the bill Thursday, setting the stage for final passage perhaps later in the day. The House already has passed the bill.

"This reform is good for families, it is good for businesses, it's good for the entire economy," Obama said as he prodded the Senate to

act quickly.

Passage would represent a signature achievement for the president just four months after he signed massive health care legislation into law. The final vote comes amid lingering public resentment of Wall Street, but the legislation's symbolic and political impact is likely to be diminished by anxiety across the country over jobs and the economy.

Reid as much as acknowledged that political reality Tuesday, blaming "greed on Wall Street" for the country's economic troubles.

"It triggered the recession," he said. "It's what suffocated the job market and robbed trillions of dollars of people's savings—trillions."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Diabetes pill controversy shows rift in FDA ranks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The diabetes pill Avandia has been used by millions of patients and racked up billions in sales in more than a decade on the market. This week the Food and Drug Administration is trying to answer a seemingly simple question: Does it cause heart attacks? It's the type of crucial safety question that the agency was established to answer. But the task of evaluating rare side effects of the drug that emerged after the agency approved it has dragged on

for years without clear answers. As the FDA began a two-day meeting Tuesday to discuss Avandia's future, it became clear that the agency's own scientists are deeply divided. On Wednesday the FDA will ask a panel of outside advisers to untangle the mess of data that has stumped its own scientists for more than three years.

Yum's profit slips but it's upbeat on China growth

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—The owner of the Taco Bell, Pizza Hut and KFC fast-food restaurant brands said Tuesday that its

second-quarter profit fell slightly because a one-time gain a year ago outpaced its revenue growth. Yum Brands Inc. gave an upbeat forecast, citing ballooning growth in China, and raised its full-year outlook. But its shares fell in aftermarket trading when investors saw revenue was flat at Yum restaurants in the U.S. that have been open at least a year. There were "some whisper expectations" of higher sales at established restaurants in China, said Larry Miller, a restaurant analyst with RBC Capital Markets. The market's tepid reaction also might reflect disappointment in

the company upgrading its full-year earnings projection by just 4 cents per share, from \$2.39 to \$2.43, he said.

Freer budgets help Intel's best-in-a-decade profit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The last time Intel Corp. pulled in profit this big, dot-com delirium was in full swing and Internet fever fueled spectacular computer sales. Now, as the technology industry recovers from a slump caused by the financial meltdown, the world's No. 1 semiconductor company has reported

its biggest quarterly net income in a decade on signs of vibrance in the most troubled corner of the computer market. Large corporations are now buying more computers that use Intel's most expensive chips, an encouraging sign for the overall economy that emerged from Intel's second-quarter numbers, which were reported Tuesday after the stock market closed. Corporations have been stingy on upgrading their workers' personal computers, a trend Intel is now seeing reverse. Intel gets most of its profit from the sale of chips that go into PCs.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 4,461.50 Up 61.50 (1.40%)	HONG KONG 20,640.68 Up 209.62 (1.03%)	JAKARTA 2,984.27 Up 22.75 (0.77%)
TOKYO 9,777.93 Up 240.70 (2.52%)	K. LUMPUR 1,340.47 Up 7.60 (0.57%)	MANILA 3,472.33 Up 36.48 (1.06%)
SEOUL 1,759.84 Up 24.76 (1.43%)	BANGKOK 822.33 Up 4.98 (0.61%)	SINGAPORE 2,945.05 Up 16.35 (0.56%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
10,363.02
146.75

NASDAQ
2,242.03
43.67

S&P
1,095.34
16.59

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1429
British Pound	0.6657
Canadian Dollar	1.0367
Chinese Renminbi	6.7711
Euro	0.7941
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7711
Indian Rupee	46.7800
Indonesian Rupiah	9,053.5000
Japanese Yen	88.6190
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2050
New Zealand Dollar	1.4084
Philippine Peso	46.2700
Singapore Dollar	1.3826
South Korean Won	1,201.8630
Swiss Franc	1.0608
Taiwan Dollar	32.0930
Thailand Baht	32.3600

In U.S. dollar terms
Source: Associated Press

Nation

NAACP resolution condemns racism in tea party

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Leaders of the country's largest civil rights organization accused tea party activists on Tuesday of tolerating bigotry and approved a resolution condemning racism within the political movement.

The resolution was adopted during the annual convention in Kansas City of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spokesman Chris Fleming said. Tea party organizers disputed claims of racism and called on the NAACP to withdraw the resolution.

■ ■ ■ ■

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A billboard created by an Iowa tea party group that compares President Barack Obama to Adolf Hitler and Vladimir Lenin is drawing sharp criticism—even from fellow tea party activists who have condemned it as offensive and a waste of money.

The North Iowa Tea Party began displaying the billboard in downtown Mason City last week. The sign shows large photographs of Obama, Nazi leader Hitler and communist leader Lenin beneath the labels "Democrat Socialism," "National Socialism," and "Marx-



In this May 17, 2008 file photo, Ben Jealous, the newly elected president of the NAACP, makes remarks outside the NAACP headquarters in Baltimore.

ist Socialism."

Beneath the photos is the phrase, "Radical leaders prey on the fearful & naive."

The co-founder of the roughly 200-person group said the billboard was intended to send an anti-socialist message. But Bob Johnson admitted

Tuesday that the message may have gotten lost amid the images of fascist and communist leaders.

■ ■ ■ ■

Debate was mostly closed to the public, but the final version of the resolution "calls on the tea party and all people of good will to repudiate the

racist element and activities within the tea party," said Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington bureau.

"I hope it will empower the tea party to actually look at itself and see that there are those who are noticing things that I think most tea partiers don't want," he said.

Alleged 'Barefoot Bandit' returns to the US

MIAMI (AP)—The American teenager who police call the "Barefoot Bandit" was deported to the United States on Tuesday, just hours after he pleaded guilty to a minor offense in the Bahamas.

Law enforcement officials escorted Colton Harris-Moore on a commercial flight to Miami to face prosecution for a two-year string of break-ins and plane thefts across the United States. The FBI took him off the plane and put him into a waiting car. Officials said the 19-year-old convict was taken to a federal jail in Miami, where he is scheduled to have an initial court appearance Wednesday. It's likely he will eventually be taken to Seattle, where he was indicted.

Harris-Moore was on the plane with Bahamian authorities as well as FBI agents, but he did not know FBI agents were aboard, said John Gillies, FBI special agent in charge

of the Miami office. The FBI did not have any authority to arrest Harris-Moore in the Bahamas and waited until he reached Miami to take him into custody, Gillies said.

Earlier Tuesday, Harris-Moore pleaded guilty in the Bahamas to illegally entering the country. He had been arrested in the island country Sunday following a high-speed boat chase.

The charge stemming from his alleged crash of a stolen plane on Great Abaco Island carried a \$300 fine. His lawyer, Monique Gomez, said the U.S. Embassy would pay it. Gomez said Harris-Moore wanted to go home.

The shackled teen smiled after the judge read the sentence. Bahamian police had earlier said that he would face other charges including illegal weapons possession related to a string of break-ins and thefts during his weeklong hideout in the country.

4-time Texas lotto winner rich with money, mystery

BISHOP, Texas (AP)—The odds that Joan Ginther would hit four Texas Lottery jackpots for a combined nearly \$21 million are astronomical. Mathematicians say the chances are as slim as 1 in 18 septillion—that's 18 and 24 zeros.

Just as unlikely? Getting to know one of the luckiest women in the world.

"She wants her privacy," friend Cris Carmona said.

On a \$50 scratch-off ticket bought in this rural farming community, Ginther won \$10 million last month in her biggest windfall yet. But it was the fourth winning ticket in Texas for the 63-year-old former college professor since 1993, when Ginther split an \$11 million jackpot and became the most famous native in Bishop history.

But she's a celebrity who few in this town of 3,300 people can say much about.

"That lady is pretty much scarce to everybody," said Lucas Ray Cruz, Ginther's former neighbor. "That's just the way she is."

At the Times Market where Ginther bought her last two winning tickets, the highway gas station is fast becoming a pilgrimage for unlucky lottery losers.



In this July 9, 2010 photo, Sun Bae, left, owner of the Times Market, sells lottery tickets to Frank Gutierrez at her store in Bishop, Texas.

Lines stretch deep past a \$5.98 bin of Mexican movie DVDs, and a woman from Rhode Island called last week asking to buy tickets from the charmed

store through the mail.

She was told that was illegal. The woman called back to plead again anyway.

More cops charged in post-Katrina bridge shootings

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—In a case that rocked a city already torn by the horrors of Hurricane Katrina, four police officers accused of gunning down two unarmed people in the storm's chaotic aftermath could face death themselves.

The officers who could face the death penalty were charged along with two others in a 27-count indictment unsealed Tuesday. Five former New Orleans police officers already have pleaded guilty to helping cover up the shootings on the Danziger Bridge that left two men dead and four wounded

just days after the August 2005 hurricane. In one instance, a mentally disabled man was shot in the back and stomped before he died.

Prosecutors say officers fabricated witness statements, falsified reports and planted a gun in an attempt to make it appear the shootings were justified. It was a shocking example of the violence and confusion that followed the storm.

With 80 percent of New Orleans underwater, officers from a department with a history of corruption were forced to

battle rampant crime, and some became criminals themselves. Dozens of officers were fired or suspended for abandoning their post. In an separate case, an officer is charged with shooting a man whose body turned up in a burned out car.

The latest indictments have also come shortly after the city's new mayor replaced its former police chief and invited a Justice Department team to overhaul the city's corruption-plagued police department, which already is the target of several federal investigations separate from the bridge shooting.

ACROSS THE NATION

Opponents pack hearing on mosque near ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—Dozens of opponents and some supporters of a mosque planned at a building near ground zero attended a raucous hearing Tuesday about whether the building should be designated a city landmark and protected from development. Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Lazio, who has sought an investigation into the funding of the mosque, was among the witnesses who testified in support of giving the building landmark status, which could complicate plans by Muslim groups to develop a community center and mosque there. After noting the lower Manhattan building's history and architectural significance, Lazio said it also warranted landmark designation because on Sept. 11, 2001, it was struck by airplane debris from the terror attacks against the nearby World Trade Center. That connection to the attacks, he said, made it "a place of deep historical significance and a reminder of just what happened on New York's darkest day."

List of alleged illegal immigrants mailed in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A list containing the names and personal information of 1,300 people an anonymous group contends are illegal immigrants has been mailed around Utah, terrifying the state's Hispanic community. Republican Gov. Gary Herbert wrote in a tweet Tuesday that he has asked state agencies to investigate the list—sent anonymously to several me-

dia outlets, and law enforcement and state agencies. A letter accompanying the list demands that those on it be deported immediately. Most of the names on the list are of Hispanic origin. The list also contains highly detailed personal information such as Social Security numbers, birth dates, workplaces, addresses and phone numbers. Names of children are included, along with due dates of pregnant women on the list. "My phone has been ringing nonstop since this morning with people finding out they're on the list," said Tony Yapias, former director of the Utah Office of Hispanic Affairs. "They're feeling terrorized. They're very scared."

Pa. dog trapped in hot car honks to alert owner

MACUNGIE, Pa. (AP)—A veterinarian said a dog trapped in a car on a 90-degree day in eastern Pennsylvania honked the horn until he was rescued. Nancy Soares said the chocolate Labrador was brought to her Macungie Animal Hospital last month after he had been in the car for about an hour. She said Max's owner had gone shopping and was unloading packages when she returned but forgot that Max was still in the car. She later heard the horn honking and looked outside several times but saw nothing amiss. Finally, she went outside and saw Max sitting in the driver's seat, honking the horn. Soares said the owner immediately gave Max cold water to drink and wet him down with towels before rushing him to the clinic. Soares said Max was very warm and panting heavily but had suffered no serious injuries, only heat exhaustion.

Asia

3 killed, 19 missing as typhoon lashes RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The first typhoon to lash the Philippines this year flooded streets in the capital and toppled power lines Wednesday, causing widespread blackouts and suspending flights, classes and work in some government offices. At least three people died, and 19 fishermen are missing.

Typhoon Conson slammed into northeast Quezon province

with winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour late Tuesday and weakened into a tropical storm as it crossed rice-growing Luzon Island and buffeted the sprawling capital with strong gusts and heavy rain for about two hours, said weather forecaster Bernie de Leon.

The storm blew out of Manila before dawn Wednesday, leaving downed branches, trees and

scattered trash. Winds ripped tarpaulin billboards along the main roads and blew away roofs of coastal shanties.

Conson moved into the South China Sea and was projected to make another landfall on the Chinese mainland west of Macau later this week.

Among the fatalities were a woman and her child who were hit by a falling tree in Cavite

province south of Manila, provincial spokesman Filomeno Maligaya told DZBB radio. He said another child drowned after falling into a raging river in Novelata township.

The national disaster council reported that some communities in Manila were flooded by knee-deep waters. Up to 3,100 people were stranded in ports waiting for the weather to clear.

The coast guard said search and rescue vessels were deployed off the island province of Catanduanes early Wednesday to search for 19 fishermen reported missing after the typhoon churned out big waves

that overturned their boats.

Despite preparations by disaster relief agencies to avoid the repetition of last year's calamity when nearly 1,000 people were killed in typhoon-triggered floods in and around Manila, the newly elected President Benigno Aquino III scolded the weather bureau for failing to predict that the storm would hit the capital.

"I hope this is the last time we are all brought to areas different from where we should be," Aquino told officials during a meeting of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, noting that government agencies were

relying on the weather bureau for their preparations.

Weather bureau chief Prisco Nilo explained that it takes forecasters six hours to update weather bulletins in making predictions. The weather bureau has complained of lack of funding and equipment.

The Manila International Airport Authority said 63 flights, including four international, have been canceled and nine were diverted to the central Philippine international airport since late Tuesday.

Classes were suspended in grade and high schools and most universities in Manila. Several government offices, including the Senate, also suspended work due to the power outage.

Race to drain reservoirs following China storms

BEIJING (AP)—Work crews raced to drain fast-rising reservoirs on opposite sides of China on Wednesday, following torrential rains that triggered deadly landslides in several mountain hamlets.

The death toll from the landslides in western China this week rose to 37, with 37 people still missing, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

In the worst-hit community of Xiaohe in Yunnan province, the death toll climbed to 13 following a landslide that swept through town before dawn on Tuesday, Xinhua said.

Two landslides killed 14 in neighboring Sichuan province while in Hunan province, ten people including four young children died in two separate slides this week, the report said.

Meanwhile, the waters in a

reservoir near the far western city of Golmud began to subside after hundreds of workers and soldiers finished digging a diversion channel, an official at the Qinghai province water bureau said.

More than 10,000 residents were evacuated as soldiers transported sandbags, rocks and dirt and used bulldozers to dig the emergency waterway, the Golmud city government website said.

Usually prone to drought, Qinghai has seen increasingly heavy rainfalls in recent years. This year's rains fell as snow melted in the surrounding mountains. Dozens of reservoirs swelled beyond their warning levels, the water bureau official said.

In the eastern province of Anhui, workers were draining overflowing reservoirs and repairing damaged dams, Xinhua

reported. About 70 percent of the 282 reservoirs in Chizhou city have exceeded warning levels due to torrential rains.

Since the beginning of July, flooding across China has killed 107 people, with 59 missing and nearly a million people evacuated from their homes as of Tuesday, Xinhua said.

More rain was expected to sweep through the Yangtze River basin, including Zhejiang, Anhui, Jiangsu and Sichuan provinces through Thursday, the China Meteorological Administration said.

Parts of China experience annual flooding but this year's rains have been particularly devastating. Storms so far this month have caused economic losses of 19.8 billion yuan (US\$2.9 billion), according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorea, US-led UN Command to meet Thursday

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Talks between North Korea and the American-led U.N. Command have been rescheduled for Thursday after Pyongyang abruptly canceled a meeting meant to discuss the sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on Pyongyang. Military officers from the two sides now planned to meet at the Korean border village of Panmunjom on Thursday morning, the U.N. Command said in a statement Wednesday. The talks were originally set for Tuesday, but the North abruptly canceled them just before they were to start, requesting a delay for "administrative reasons." It later asked that they be held Thursday and the U.N. Command accepted the proposal. The talks would be the first such meeting since the March 26 sinking, which sharply raised tensions on the divided Korean peninsula. Forty-six South Korean sailors were killed.

Pakistani official vows to fight India for Kashmir

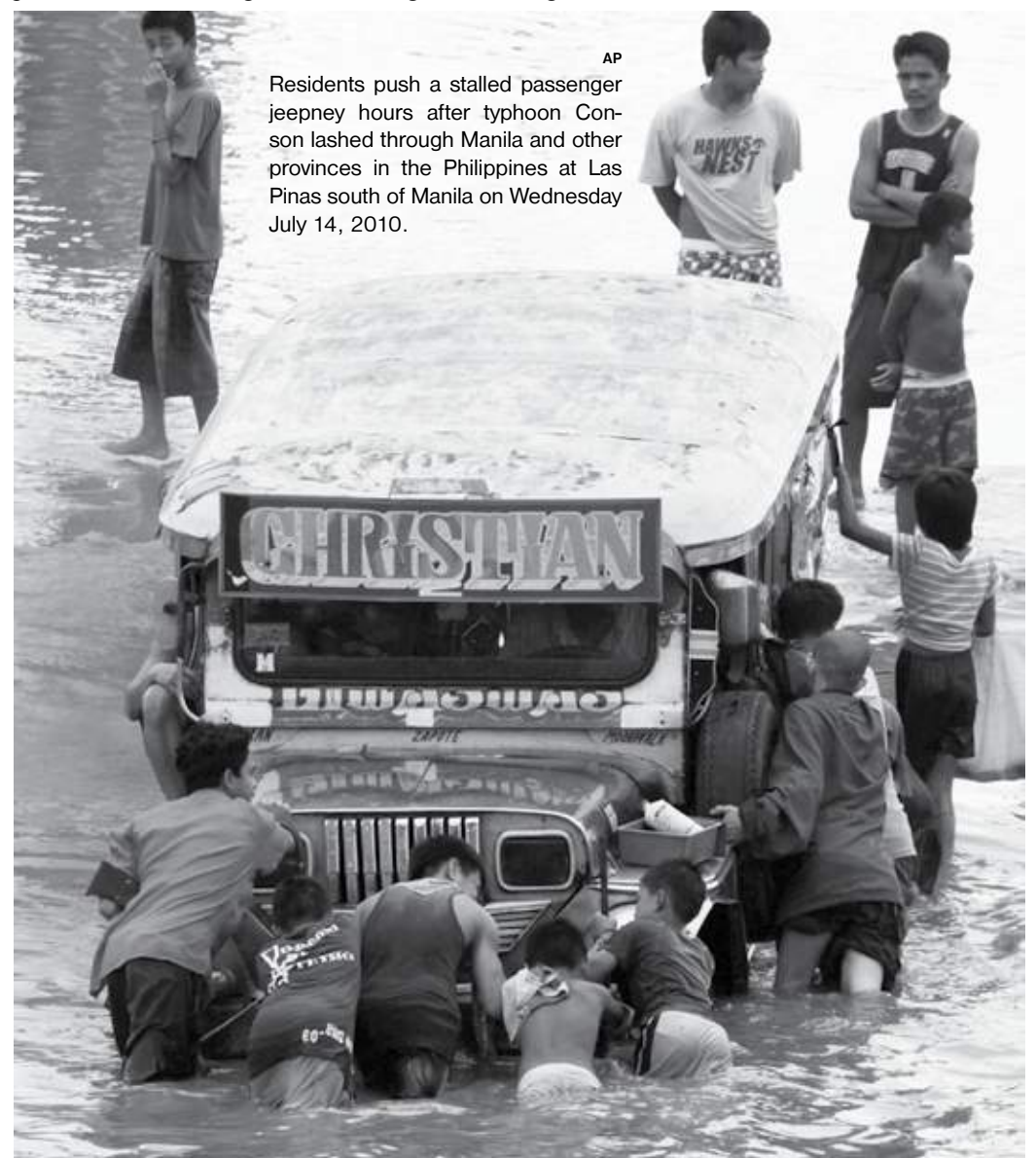
MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The top official in Pakistan-held Kashmir vowed Tuesday to fight India for control of the disputed territory in a speech to thousands of people assembled by a coalition of banned militant groups. The provocative comments by Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan come amid the worst unrest in years in India-held Kashmir, which like Pakistan is majority Muslim. Residents have often chafed against rule by majority Hindu India. Khan's comments also come a day before India is scheduled to make its highest level visit to Pakistan since militants linked to Pakistan killed 166 people in Mumbai in 2008. The talks are meant to reduce tension between the two countries, but Khan's comments could do the opposite.

Malaysia raid for stolen cars nets protected birds

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A police raid for stolen vehicles found 42 of them at a warehouse in Malaysia—and hundreds of birds and other protected wildlife. Celescoriano Razond, an official with the wildlife department, says police officers found some 700 birds and caged leopard cats, albino pygmy monkeys and other animals. They included about 20 protected species. Celescoriano said Wednesday that all the animals found in Tuesday's raid in Kuala Lumpur were now safe with the wildlife department. News reports say those rescued include a pair of rare birds of paradise worth 1 million ringgit (\$300,000). Authorities believe the animals were to be bred or sold.

Turncoat Afghan soldier kills 3 British troopers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An Afghan soldier killed three British service members with gunfire and a rocket-propelled grenade in the dead of night, a betrayal that highlights the difficulties in rapidly building up Afghan security forces so that foreign troops can go home. The soldier fled after carrying out the attack in southern Afghanistan early Tuesday, leaving his motive unclear. But the Taliban claimed that he was a militant sympathizer who was taken in by insurgents after the assault—one which could further weaken support in Britain for an unpopular war that has now taken the lives of 317 Britons. In London, Prime Minister David Cameron condemned the killings as "appalling" but insisted the attack should not change NATO's strategy of working alongside the Afghan army. Four other British service members were wounded in the attack on a base in Nahr-i-Saraj district of Helmand province that is home to members of the 1st Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles.



Residents push a stalled passenger jeepney hours after typhoon Conson lashed through Manila and other provinces in the Philippines at Las Pinas south of Manila on Wednesday July 14, 2010.

China seeks to reduce Internet users' anonymity

BEIJING (AP)—A leading Chinese Internet regulator has vowed to reduce anonymity in China's portion of cyberspace, calling for requirements that people use their real names when buying a mobile phone or going online, according to a human rights group.

In an address to the national legislature in April, Wang Chen, director of the State Council Information Office, called for perfecting the extensive system of censorship the government uses to manage the fast-evolving Internet, according to a text of the speech obtained by New York-based Human Rights in China.

China's regime has a complicated relationship with the free-wheeling Internet, reflected in

its recent standoff with Google over censorship of search results. China this week confirmed it had renewed Google's license to operate, after the company agreed to stop automatically re-routing users to its Hong Kong site, which is not subject to China's online censorship.

The Internet is China's most open and lively forum for discussion, despite already pervasive censorship, but stricter controls could constrain users. The country's online population has surged past 400 million, making it the world's largest.

Chen's comments were reported only briefly when they were made in April. Human Rights in China said the government quickly removed a full

transcript posted on the legislature's website. But the group said it found an unexpurgated text and the discrepancies show that Beijing is wary that its push for tighter information control might prove unpopular.

Wang said holes that needed to be plugged included ways people could post comments or access information anonymously, according to the transcript published this week in the group's magazine China Rights Forum.

"We will make the Internet real name system a reality as soon as possible, implement a nationwide cell phone real name system, and gradually apply the real name registration system to online interactive processes," the journal quoted Wang as saying.

World

Italy nabs 300 mobsters, reveals new mob structure

MILAN (AP)—Anti-mafia prosecutors claimed a major victory over the powerful and growing 'ndrangheta crime syndicate, infiltrating intimate weddings, baptisms and other events to gather information that led to the arrests Tuesday of 305 people, including top bosses, and the seizure of more than euro60 million (\$76 million) in cash and property.

One of the most significant revelations to emerge from the investigation was that the Calabrian mob had a tight hierarchal structure like that of the Sicilian Mafia, and wasn't just an association of clans as previously believed. While expanding its economic reach into the wealthy Lombard region in northern Italy, the 'ndrangheta (en-DRAN-geh-tah) is also concentrating its power in its native Calabria, exerting tight control over all strategic decision-making, anti-mafia prosecutors said.

The operation began before dawn with the 4 a.m. arrest of Domenico Oppedisano, the crime group's top boss, in the small coastal town of Rosarno in Calabria.

But the investigation owed its success to investigators' ability to infiltrate events like the 2009 wedding of the children of two crime bosses in Calabria, attended by thousands of well-wishers, where Oppedisano was named to his post, said Calabrian anti-mafia prosecutor Giuseppe Pignatone.

When Oppedisano was formally ele-



An unidentified man, left, rides in a Carabinieri (Paramilitary police) car, after being arrested in Reggio Calabria, southern Italy, Tuesday, July 13, 2010, following one of the biggest operations ever against the powerful 'ndrangheta crime organization, in which 300 people were arrested including top bosses, and million of dollars (euros) in property seized.

vated some two weeks later, on Sept. 2, the feast of Madonna Polsi, undercover agents got video of the crime syndicate's major bosses all being confirmed

in their new positions in the structure, he said.

"Police and carabinieri have been able to record since Aug. 1, 2009 all

of the major negotiations of the various families," Pignatone told a news conference.

That includes some 40 similar meet-

ings in Lombardy, which has become the Calabrian mob's moneymaking center, with operations focusing on excavations for construction sites, trash disposal and real estate. While officials seized euro60 million in cash and property, prosecutors are unable to estimate how much the 'ndrangheta is cashing in each year.

Wiretaps indicate that as many as 500 'ndrangheta mobsters are operating in Lombardy, where 160 were arrested. They include Pino Neri, whom police said was in charge of the gang's businesses in Milan, where the 'ndrangheta has been making major inroads.

The investigation revealed the 'ndrangheta was extremely "hierarchical, united and pyramidal," and not just clan-based as previously believed, said Italy's chief anti-mafia prosecutor Piero Grasso.

That became clear when the Lombard branch, empowered by its riches, attempted to exert autonomy and was cut short when the Calabrian bosses sent a professional killer to murder the would-be upstarts, Pignatone said.

The 'ndrangheta has emerged as one of the most powerful of the crime syndicates, even if only since February has Italian law recognized it as a criminal organization. From Calabria, it has spread its tentacles to northern Italy, where it migrated in the 1970s and 1980s, to Germany, and as far away as Canada and Australia.

Defector do-over? Iran scientist wants to go home

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Iranian scientist sought refuge in the Pakistani Embassy compound and asked to go home, an apparent defection gone wrong that could embarrass the U.S. and its efforts to gather intelligence on Tehran's suspected nuclear weapons program.

Iran—and at one point, scientist Shahram Amiri—claimed the CIA had kidnapped him; the U.S. said Tuesday that nothing of the sort happened. Amiri disappeared while on a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia in June 2009, surfacing in videos but otherwise out of sight until the latest bizarre twist in the case.

"Mr. Amiri has been in the United States of his own free will and he is free to go," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. It was the first time the Obama administration publicly acknowledged Amiri was in the U.S.

Reliable and timely information about Iran's nuclear program is of enormous importance to the Obama administration and other countries seeking to stop the Islamic republic from getting the bomb.



This frame grab image taken from a video posted on YouTube and which appeared on Iranian television on June 7, 2010, shows a man whom Iranian broadcasters identified as Iranian nuclear scientist Shahram Amiri.

Beyond using diplomatic means to try to stop Iran, the U.S. and Israel have not ruled out using military force.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

The U.S. has denied Iran's accusation that U.S. agents kidnapped Amiri—a charge that grew more confused with the appearance in recent months of videos

purporting to show Amiri making conflicting claims about his fate.

"He left his family behind, that was his choice," said a U.S. official who was briefed on the case and spoke on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the case.

In one, he claimed U.S. and Saudi "ter-

ror and kidnap teams" snatched him; in another, he said he was happily studying for a doctorate in the U.S. The murky cir-

cumstances gave credence to the theory that Amiri, 32, might have been coerced by Iran into claiming he was kidnapped.

3 bodies found hanging from bridges in Mexico

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (AP)—Three dead bodies were found Tuesday hanging from pedestrian bridges in the central Mexican city of Cuernavaca.

Morelos state prosecutors' spokesman Efrain Vega said the victims were shot to death. The bodies were accompanied by threatening notes signed by a drug gang.

Vega said the three men escaped from a state prison last month.

The message accused them of working for Edgar Valdez Villarreal, a U.S.-born enforcer known as "La Barbie." It was attributed to the Southern Pacific cartel, believed to have formed from the remnants of the Beltran Leyva cartel.

Authorities say more than 120 people have died this year in a turf war between Valdez Villareal and Hector Beltran Leyva.

Also Tuesday, gunmen killed three state police officers in two ambush-style attacks in the border city of Ciu-

dad Juarez. Another officer was seriously wounded.

Arturo Sandoval, a spokesman for prosecutors in the northern state of Chihuahua, where Ciudad Juarez is located, said the first attack occurred on a busy avenue, killing both agents in a patrol vehicle; a second patrol car was attacked 15 minutes later elsewhere on the same avenue, killing one officer and wounding another.

Ciudad Juarez has been hit by over 1,400 drug-related killings so far in 2010, and over 2,600 in 2009. There was no immediate information on the identity of the assailants or motive in the Tuesday attack.

Also Tuesday, Mexico's Defense Department reported that three assailants died Monday in a shootout with soldiers in the border city of Reynosa. The soldiers reportedly came under fire while on patrol, returned fire and seized three rifles at the scene.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli bulldozers raze 6 east Jerusalem buildings

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli bulldozers destroyed six buildings, including at least three homes, in contested east Jerusalem on Tuesday, resuming the demolition of Palestinian property after a halt aimed at encouraging peace talks. Jerusalem house demolitions are a volatile issue because of conflicting Israeli and Palestinian claims to the

city's eastern sector. Israel sees it as part of its capital city, while Palestinians want it for their own future capital. The municipality said none of the structures razed were homes, and that all had been illegally built and were not populated. The demolitions were carried out by a court order, the municipality said in a statement. But Palestinians disputed those claims, saying three of the demolished structures were homes and

one was a warehouse. Two daybeds and bags crammed with children's clothing and kitchen utensils were strewn outside one of the buildings.

US transfers Gitmo prisoner to Yemen

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A Guantanamo Bay prisoner has been transferred to his homeland of Yemen, the U.S. Defense Department an-

nounced on Tuesday, after a U.S. district court ordered the longtime detainee's release. The release of 26-year-old Mohammed Odaini after eight years at Guantanamo Bay was an exception to the Obama administration's freeze on prisoner transfers to the turbulent country after the failed attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day. Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula has claimed responsibility for the

failed attempt. "The suspension of Yemeni repatriations from Guantanamo remains in effect due to the security situation that exists there. However, the administration respects the decisions of U.S. federal courts," the Pentagon said in a statement. Yemen, a poor country with a weak central government on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, has struggled to confront a growing al-Qaida presence.

Environment

Shrinking costs give solar energy a new allure

By **GERRY SMITH**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

At a former industrial site on Chicago's South Side, more than 32,000 solar panels slowly tilt every few minutes, following the sun as it moves across the sky.

Operated by Exelon Corp., the 40-acre site is the nation's largest urban solar plant, generating 10 megawatts of clean power and hope for an industry that has long waited for its moment in the sun.

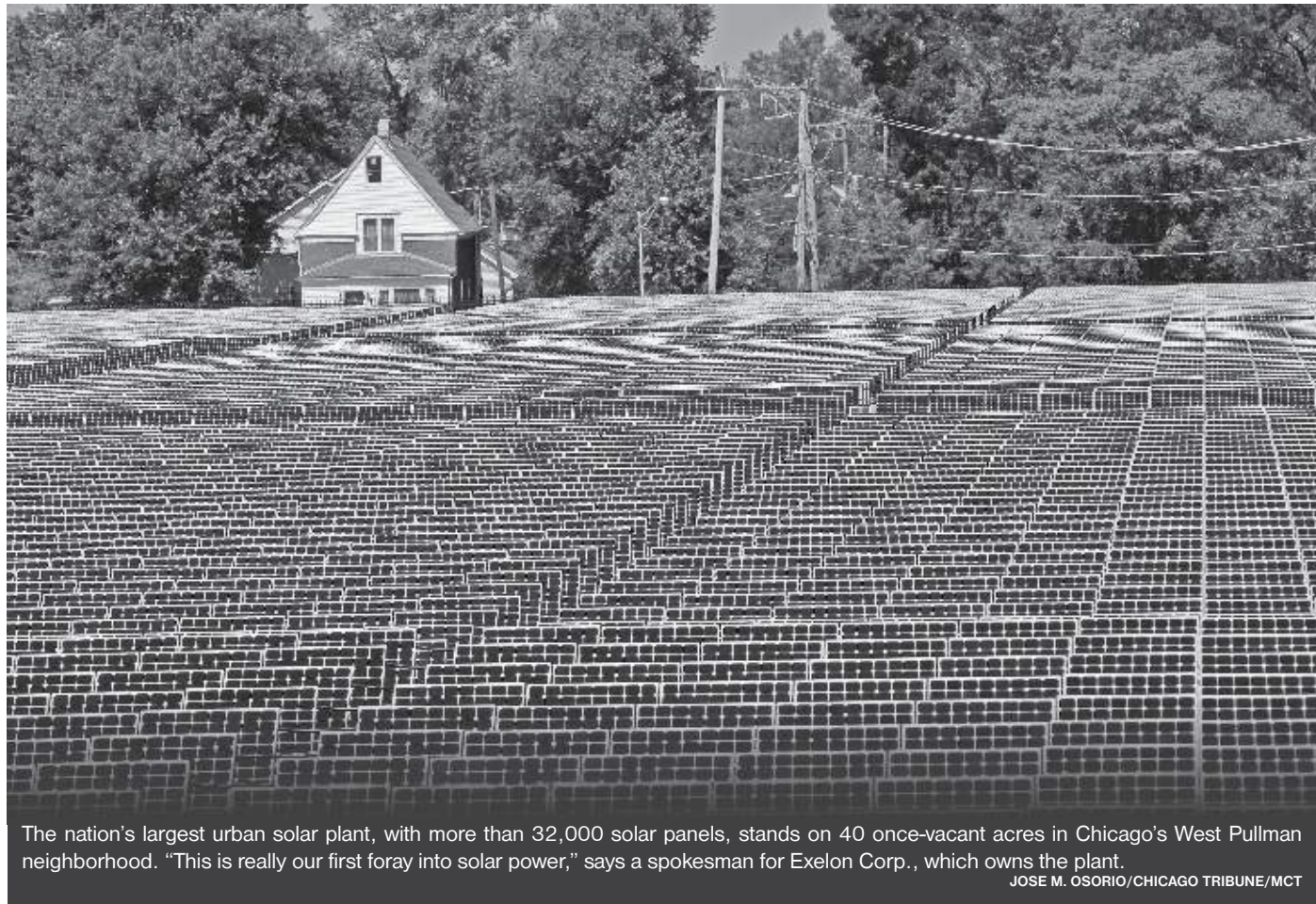
"We have been frustrated over the years that solar has not become more mainstream," said Kevin Lynch, who trains electricians to install solar panels for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. "We understand it's still a relatively expensive technology, but the cost is much less than it was a few years ago."

Indeed, the biggest obstacle to the growth of solar energy—its cost—has started to decline. The price of photovoltaic solar panels dropped more than 40 percent last year due to a glut in global supply, according to the Solar Energy Industries Association.

The drop in price is driving renewed interest in solar energy, said Howard Learner, executive director of the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Last month, Illinois lawmakers passed legislation that will double the state's solar power supply each year and create an estimated 5,000 "green" jobs by 2014. Meanwhile, at least three solar developers have plans to build solar projects of 10 to 20 megawatts in Illinois, Learner said.

To be sure, Illinois is not



The nation's largest urban solar plant, with more than 32,000 solar panels, stands on 40 once-vacant acres in Chicago's West Pullman neighborhood. "This is really our first foray into solar power," says a spokesman for Exelon Corp., which owns the plant.

JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

quite the solar-powered mecca of California or Florida. But the potential is there: The sun in Illinois is more intense than in Japan or Germany, the world's two largest solar markets.

"Illinois has the opportunity to be a very significant solar energy leader between the two

coasts," Learner said.

Nationwide, there are more than 22,000 megawatts of large-scale solar projects under development, or enough to power 4.4 million homes. And government incentives are helping drive the industry. A 30 percent manufacturing tax credit has resulted in the

construction of 58 new facilities to produce solar energy equipment, according to Jared Blanton, a spokesman for the Solar Energy Industries Association.

In Illinois, unions are preparing for the anticipated demand. At an apprentice school in Alsip, Lynch trains about 200 electricians

and quality of solar panels to make sure they are absorbing maximum sunlight.

"I'm glad I got in at the beginning of a growth industry," said Amedeo, who works for SunPower Corp., which designed and operates the facility. "Solar is ready to take off

thing that went on for years," Lynch said.

Still, solar proponents see hope for the future in Exelon's solar plant, which began operating in December.

To finance the \$62 million project, Exelon took advantage of local real estate and federal tax incentives. The company hopes to recoup more costs by eventually selling solar renewable energy credits. For a company that has staked its future largely on nuclear reactors, the solar plant is a learning experience.

"We look forward to learning lessons on how this operates," Exelon spokesman Paul Elsberg said. "This is really our first foray into solar power."

The facility has generated a range of benefits for the local economy. The solar panels sit on metal poles created by Fabricating and Welding Corp., located less than a mile away. And the site itself, which sat abandoned for 30 years, is now back on the city's tax rolls.

The solar plant generates enough electricity to power about 1,500 homes and its clean power means less greenhouse gases are emitted, the equivalent of taking 2,500 cars off the road each year.

But with unemployment remaining high, new solar projects such as Exelon's are being measured as much for the jobs they create—even if only temporary—as the pollution they avoid.

"These were actual construction jobs, with decent wages, health insurance and pensions," Lynch said. "And there's going to be clean energy coming from that site for years and years to come."

Local spirits can help you do your part

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Summertime is the perfect time to sample new beverages as you gather with friends and families at outdoor parties or indoor fiestas. One enjoyable way you can Do Your Part is to try out locally or organically produced beers and wines, and it's now easier than ever to get your lips on some pretty tasty varieties.

If local is the route you want to go, you're in luck! The number of microbreweries and small vineyards in the United States has grown exponentially over the last 20 years, which means an ever-widening array of offerings from which to choose. Purchasing from locally based brewers and vintners helps support the local farmers and the small businesses in your community. This creates jobs

and stimulates your regional economy. Buying local also reduces the need for long-distance transportation, which in turn, decreases the carbon footprint of your favorite fermented re-



MCT

Can't find a local microbrewery to your liking? You might then consider going with an organic beer or even make your own brew.

freshment. You may also find that locally produced brews taste a whole lot fresher because they generally spend less time being stored and shipped. Not sure about your local options? Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns to search by state.

If a local producer isn't an option, you can still your Do Your

Part by selecting organic beers and wines. The beauty of these beverages is that they are produced with grapes or barley and hops that are grown without using toxic insecticides and herbi-

cides or synthetic fertilizers that pollute our air, land and water. These same chemicals can be harmful to humans and animals alike. You'll find that many local producers opt for organic growing methods and larger beer and wine producers are also offering organic selections. Even liquor producers are entering the mar-

cians a year to work in the solar industry. His students are hoping to follow in the footsteps of Jim Amedeo, the site supervisor at Exelon's Chicago plant.

Amedeo, who once ran data centers for Internet and telephone companies, now spends his days checking the position

here in the United States."

But the promise of "green" jobs should not be seen as a panacea for unemployment, Lynch said. Exelon's plant, for example, created about 200 jobs, but only during the six months of construction, he said.

"It certainly wasn't some-

ket with organic vodka and gin available on store shelves.

The greenest choice of all is of course to make your own. I rarely encounter anyone making great wine in their bathtub nowadays but I know several garage brew-masters that can whip up some tasty selections. If you'd like to learn more about making your own beer, HomeBrewersAssociation.org is a good place to start.

It's easy to Do Your Part while enjoying your next beer or glass of wine. Seek out, sample and support the flavors of locally or organically produced spirits. Who knows, you just might find a new favorite.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com

Keeping it cool with air conditioning tips

By **KRISTY EPPLEY RUPON**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Some tips for keeping your air conditioning running smoothly during the ultra-hot months and what to do if it breaks down from Deborah Evans, owner of Evans Heating & Cooling in Elgin, S.C.:

- Change the air filter once a month. Don't use the ultra-thick, expensive filters because they will restrict air flow and cause the unit to work harder.
- Have the unit maintained twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.
- If the unit ices over from a coolant leak or being clogged with debris, turn off the thermostat and use a water hose to defrost it faster. Once it is defrosted, you can turn it back on for a cool blast while you wait for a repairman.
- If the heating and air company has an unacceptably long waiting list, shop around for someone who can fix it faster or ask for a loaner window unit to stay cool while you wait.
- Remember that the unit might be doing all it can. Most units will drop the temperature inside only 20 degrees from what it is outside.

Life & Style

Prosecution rests in Blagojevich corruption trial

CHICAGO (AP)—Prosecutors rested their case Tuesday in the corruption trial of Rod Blagojevich, after presenting more than five weeks of testimony from some of the ousted Illinois governor's closest associates and wiretap tapes secretly recorded by the FBI.

The government ended its case by coming back to one of the first examples they raised at the trial—the alleged attempt to extort money from a children's hospital that treats patients from around the world regardless of the ability to pay.

In some of the trial's most emotional testimony, Children's Memorial Hospital's chief executive Patrick Magoon said he believed Blagojevich was threatening to cancel a state aid increase unless he came up with \$25,000 in campaign donations.

"I felt threatened, I felt at risk and I felt a little angry," said Magoon, the final prosecution witness.

U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel sent jurors home until Monday, a break that will give defense attorneys a chance to round up some witnesses they say did not expect to be on the stand until August and are not available now. Prosecutors had said before the trial that they expected their case, which began the second week in June, to stretch into August.

Blagojevich's attorney Sam Adam Sr. told reporters after court adjourned that prosecutors hadn't lived up to what he said were their assurances before trial of overwhelming evidence



In this photo taken July 7, 2010, former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich arrives at the federal building in Chicago for his corruption trial. July 7, 2010.

against the former governor. He cited remarks by U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald following Blagojevich's arrest that Blagojevich's actions would make Abraham Lincoln "roll over in his grave."

"Turns out none of that happened," Adam said. "And as far as I know—and we checked with the cemetery—Lincoln is still intact."

A smiling Blagojevich, holding his wife Patti's hand, said, "I will prove my innocence and I will testify."

Blagojevich, 53, has pleaded not guilty to scheming to sell or trade President Barack Obama's former Senate seat for a Cabinet post or other major job. He has also pleaded not guilty to plotting to launch a racketeering operation in the governor's office.

His brother, Nashville, Tenn., businessman Robert Blagojevich, has pleaded not guilty to taking part in the alleged Senate seat and plotting to shake down businessmen for campaign funds.

The last prosecution witness, Magoon, said that in October 2008 Blagojevich contacted him and said he planned a rate increase that would send an additional \$10 million to the hospital. A few days later, he said, Robert Blagojevich left him a voice mail asking for the \$25,000 by the end of the year. Magoon said he did not return the call and did not make the contribution.

On cross examination, Magoon acknowledged that the governor never told him the two things were connected or discussed fundraising with him. But he said he feared that if he failed to raise the money "the commitment we needed would be rescinded."

Earlier, a lobbyist who was for years one of Blagojevich's closest advisers testified that he became so concerned about the pressure the governor was placing on potential campaign contributors that he contacted the FBI and began cooperating in the government's investigation.

"I was increasingly alarmed about the level of aggressiveness the fundraising had taken on," said John Wyma. At the time, he had already received a federal subpoena in connection with his lobbying work on behalf of a group of hospitals regulated by the state.

Ed Norton won't play the Hulk in 'Avengers' flick



This is an Oct. 15, 2008, file photo showing actor Edward Norton posing in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed Norton is speaking out on Facebook after Marvel Studios announced last week that the actor won't reprise his Hulk role in its forthcoming "Avengers" film.

Norton says he took to the social-networking site Monday because he felt it would be rude not to respond to an outpouring of support from fans.

Following Marvel president Kevin Feige's announcement Saturday that the studio would replace Norton with "an actor who embodies the creativity and collaborative spirit of our other talented cast members," Norton apologized to fans that "it won't work out" for him to play Bruce Banner again, adding he is proud of his work in the "Hulk" film and grateful to the studio for the opportunity to play the part.

Marvel had no comment Tuesday.

Will 'Breaking Dawn' be too shocking for 'Twilight' fans?

By RAFER GUZMAN
NEWSDAY

The "Twilight" franchise has kept fans riveted through three films now. And things are about to get interesting.

So far, the story of teenager Bella Swan and her vampire boyfriend, Edward Cullen, has been tame: occasional violence, never sex. But "Breaking Dawn," the final book in Stephenie Meyer's popular series, veers into territory so extreme that even faithful readers were shocked.

"Breaking Dawn" created a controversy that went largely unnoticed upon its release in August 2008, a few months before the first film generated widespread mania. The story—about to be spoiled here—begins with Bella and Edward consummating their marriage, which leaves her happily covered in bruises. She winds up pregnant with a half-vampire fetus that begins killing her from within. Edward wants an abortion; Bella refuses.

The capper: The baby eats its way out of Bella's womb, leaving her near death.

Though "Breaking Dawn" became a No. 1 bestseller, some bloggers and fans were turned off by what seemed like sanctioned spousal abuse and a blatant anti-abortion agenda (Meyer is a Mormon who describes herself as "really, really religious"). Gawker called the novel "creepy," and a Newsday reviewer singled out the birth as "one of the most grotesque scenes I've ever read." Readers were vocal about their disappointment, and a book-returning protest gathered steam on Amazon.com.

When "Breaking Dawn" begins filming this fall—it's being split into two movies—director Bill Condon ("Dreamgirls") will face some challenges. Is the average tweener ready for violent sex? And an even more violent birth? The beginning of the end of "Twilight" is scheduled for release November of next year.

Polanski only safe in France, Poland, Switzerland

GENEVA (AP)—Roman Polanski may once again be seen on the red carpet at Cannes—but he won't be attending the Venice Film Festival or the Oscars anytime soon.

Freed from Swiss house arrest after the government refused to deport him to the United States, the 76-year-old movie director still faces an Interpol warrant in effect for 188 countries for a 1977 child sex case.

That means now, more than ever, Polanski is truly safe from arrest only in his home nations of France and Poland, and—due to this week's stunning decision—Switzerland.

"He is in the situation he was in a year ago," said Georges Kiejman, a France-based lawyer for Polanski. "He is free to travel in Switzerland, in France, in Poland, and in all the countries that don't have extradition agreements with the United States."

Still, publicity about his case and the looming warrant is certain to curtail the director's future travels.

Most of Europe has arrangements with Washington on sending wanted individuals back and forth, but Polanski has traveled freely in numerous European countries since fleeing U.S. justice in 1978. He made his latest film "The Ghost Writer" in Germany last year and visited Austria just before the Swiss arrested him in September.

Polanski's whereabouts were still unclear Tuesday, a day after the Swiss government surprisingly decided to refuse a U.S. extradition request for the filmmaker to be sentenced for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, Samantha Geimer. Prosecutors in Los Angeles and justice officials in Washington have said they will continue to pursue Polanski.

Kiejman told The Associated Press that his client was "happy with his freedom."

"Give him a few days to breathe," Kiejman added, calling on the U.S. to scrap its international arrest warrant.

Polanski's lawyers issued a statement Tuesday calling for an investigation into the U.S. refusal to provide requested evidence to Swiss authorities in his 33-year-old sex case.

The one-page statement released in Los Angeles made no personal reference to Polanski or his reaction to Monday's ruling freeing him from Swiss custody.

The attorneys asked for the appointment of a commission by the California governor or attorney general to look into possible official misconduct in the 1977 case.

Geimer, who long ago identified herself as Polanski's victim, told the Los Angeles Times in a story posted Tuesday that the case should have been resolved 33 years ago when it happened.

"Enough is enough," she said of the continuing efforts to prosecute Polanski. She was

barred from talking about her civil suit settlement with the director but said it didn't influence her views. "I've felt this way from the beginning," she said.

Since fleeing Los Angeles on the eve

of on the eve of his Feb. 1, 1978, sentencing, the Oscar-winning director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" has mainly lived in France, which does not extradite its own citizens. And he's spent long periods of time in Switzerland, which allowed him to buy a home in 2006.

Polanski, who survived the Holocaust and lost his mother at Auschwitz, also has Polish citizenship and can travel safely to the country where he spent most of his childhood.

But, after that, it's not so clear.

Italy has a long track record of working closely with American authorities and would likely go along with an American request to arrest Polanski. U.S.-Italian extradition problems have mainly centered on crimes that could entail the death penalty, which is irrelevant in Polanski's case. So an appearance at the Venice Film Festival is probably out of the question.

Britain has an extradition treaty with the United States, and the Home Office says if there is a U.S. warrant out for Polanski's arrest and he was in the country, they would have to act on it. In 2005, Polanski successfully sued Vanity Fair magazine for libel in a London court, but could only testify by video from Paris.

Germany has a treaty with the U.S., too, but said Tuesday it wouldn't extradite Polanski. Justice Ministry spokesman Ulrich Staudigl told the AP that Polanski isn't on a German wanted list and can continue to travel to the country. Officials in Austria also showed lenience, saying he was free to come and go without a specific request for his arrest.



Polanski



In this publicity image released by FunnyOrDie.com, singer Jewel wears a disguise in a Los Angeles karaoke bar in a scene from a comedy video posted on FunnyOrDie.com.

Jewel goes undercover at karaoke bar for Web video

NEW YORK (AP)—On a recent Monday night at a Los Angeles karaoke bar, a meek-looking woman in a business suit and glasses was coaxed on stage by her co-workers.

While the boozy crowd readied itself for four minutes of awkward singing, the woman—“Karen”—suddenly belted out exquisite, pitch-perfect renditions of the Jewel songs “Who Will Save Your Soul” and “Foolish Games.”

Astonished crowd members picked their jaws off the floor and cheered wildly. One person was heard comparing Karen to “an American Susan Boyle.”

Unbeknownst to them, they had been victims of “undercover karaoke.”

Karen really was Jewel, and the proceedings had been filmed by FunnyOrDie.com, the comedy video website co-founded by Will Ferrell

and Adam McKay. The video was posted Tuesday and was rapidly circulating online, with more than 160,000 views as of evening.

“I was a bit nervous to do this skit at first because I feared it would amount to little more than showing off some vocals, dressed as someone else,” Jewel said in an e-mail. “I was worried it wouldn’t be self-effacing enough.”

For the video, created by Funny or Die writer-director Eric Appel, Jewel was given a prosthetic nose, wig and glasses, and butt padding. Only after performing as Karen did Jewel return to the stage of the karaoke joint, the Gas Lite, as herself.

(Before the reveal, one audience member says to the camera: “They tell me she only sings at Christmas parties.”)

Though Jewel is principally a singer-songwriter, she has acted before, most notably in the 1999 Ang Lee film “Ride with the Devil.” This performance was quite a bit quicker (Funny or Die contacted her just a few days before taping on June 28) and more comical.

“This did not require much, as the costume did most of the work for me,” said Jewel, whose full name is Jewel Kilcher. “I love improv and this was a small chance to do that, luckily as someone else. I would love to do more of it in the future. A dream gig would be a show like ‘Curb Your Enthusiasm.’”

Jewel also shot another video for Funny or Die that she says involves former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. A spokeswoman for the site said it will be released next week.

Paper: RFK Jr. files for divorce; no details given

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has filed for divorce from his wife of 16 years, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Journal News, citing Westchester County clerk records, said on its website that the filing occurred on May 12, three days before Kennedy’s wife, Mary Richardson Kennedy, was charged with drunken driving.

It said details, including any grounds cited for divorce, were not available.

Calls to Robert Kennedy and to Mary Kennedy’s attorney were not immediately returned. The Journal News quoted Kennedy as saying, “I’m not going to talk to you about my personal life.”

Kennedy, a prominent environmentalist, is the son of assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and nephew of assassinated President John F. Kennedy. Mary Kennedy is his second wife. They have four children.

Kennedy had two children with his first wife, whom he divorced in 1994.

Mary Kennedy was arrested May 15 after a police officer reported seeing her drive her car over a curb near their home in Bedford, 45 miles north of New York City. Police said she had a blood-alcohol level of 0.11 percent; the legal limit is 0.08 percent.

Robert Kennedy did not appear at his wife’s May 28 arraignment, when she pleaded not guilty and agreed to be evaluated to see if she needs treatment for alcohol abuse.

Police said they had responded to the Kennedy home twice in the week before her arrest but no crimes had been committed.

Lt. Jeff Dickan said that in one call, Mary Kennedy reported a dispute between children. He said the other visit resulted in a state domestic incident report but there were “no crimes committed, no report of assault, no arrests and no need for follow-up.”



Kennedy

Austrian panel recommends return of 4 works

VIENNA (AP)—A commission has recommended that four paintings contained in a vast Vienna art collection should be returned because they were either seized by the Nazis or given up against the will of their former Jewish owners, Austria’s Culture Ministry said Monday.

The paintings—one by Egon Schiele and three by Anton Romako—belong to the Leopold Museum Private Foundation, which has been criticized by the Jewish community and others for allegedly containing works stolen by the followers of Adolf Hitler.

The commission said the Romako works—“The Spring,” “Nike with Wreath” and “Young Girl, Nude”—used to belong to Oskar Reichel, a Jewish doctor who lived in the Austrian capital.

While it was unclear if the works were actually confiscated by the Nazis, “it is certain that Dr. Oskar Reichel had to give up all three paintings because of his persecution as a Jew by the National Socialists,” the commission said in a document detailing its decision.

The Schiele painting—“Houses by the Sea”—belonged to Jenny Steiner whose assets, including art, were confiscated

in the late 1930s, the 10-member panel found. In February 1941, the painting was bought by Josefine Ernst in an auction at Vienna’s famous Dorotheum.

Fourteen years later, her son, Johann Ernst, sold it to the late Rudolf Leopold, who is credited with assembling Austria’s largest and most important private art collection that includes more than 5,000 works by renowned artists such as Schiele, Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoschka.

The Culture Ministry—which has been pushing for clarity regarding the collection—could not provide details about eligible heirs for Reichel and Steiner, saying this would be part of a possible next phase of the restitution process that largely depended on how the foundation chose to handle the matter.

The foundation acknowledged the recommendations—which are non-binding—and said it would seek “fair and just solutions.”

Austria has returned looted works of art held by federal museums to their rightful owners or heirs, most of them Jewish, under a 1998 restitution law.

Stamos testifies in extortion trial of Mich. pair

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP)—Actor John Stamos testified Tuesday he did not use cocaine or behave inappropriately six years ago with an underage girl now accused of trying to squeeze \$680,000 from him by threatening to sell compromising photos to celebrity tabloids. Testifying in U.S. District Court, the “Full House” and “ER” star acknowledged having a “flirty” e-mail relationship with defendant Allison Coss after socializing with her in 2004, but denied knowing she was 17 at the time.

Stamos, 46, also denied defense lawyer Sarah Henderson’s accusation that he stripped and sat in a hot tub in his hotel room with Coss, who was wearing only underclothes. And he insisted knowing all along that no photos of him using illegal drugs existed, despite corresponding online with someone claiming to have such pictures.

Coss, now 24, and 31-year-old Scott Sippola are charged with conspiracy and two counts of extortion. If convicted, the Marquette couple could get up to five years in prison on the conspiracy charge and two years on each extortion count.

Questioned by prosecutors, Stamos said he met Coss in Orlando, Fla., in 2004 during a visit with three male friends trying to cheer him up following his separation from his wife, actress and supermodel Rebecca Romijn.

“I was very heartbroken at the time,” he said.

Stamos said he met Coss at a dance club where patrons must be at least 18 and she told him she was a college student on spring break. She actually was a high school student who had used a borrowed ID to get into the club, Henderson told jurors during opening arguments Monday.

They didn’t spend much time together that night, Stamos said, but he got her phone number. The next day, they went to Disney World and later to his hotel room, where up to 10 people had gathered.

“We were just hanging out, socializing,” he said.

Henderson said during her opening remarks that the night Stamos and Coss met, they wound up in his hotel suite

with other people, including two strippers with cocaine. Henderson said Stamos was photographed bending over a table where the drugs had been laid out and that he offered to perform oral sex on Coss when they were on his bed kissing, but she declined.

Stamos was not asked about the alleged sex offer during his testimony, and he did not address it. The presiding judge, R. Allan Edgar, last week ruled that questions about a sexual relation-

from e-mail exchanges, beginning with two messages from “J Taylor” who claimed he had gotten her pregnant.

“If this gets out, I am screwed. But most of all you are screwed 10 times more than me,” it said. Henderson acknowledged Monday that Coss had sent the message.

Afterward, Stamos testified, Coss began sending him e-mails saying a man was harassing her about having incriminating photos of her and Stamos.

For the most part, Coss appears more fearful than Stamos in the e-mails. “I’m not worried about pics,” he says. “The worst we were doing was drinking and goofing off.” In another message, he says of the man threatening Coss: “I’ll bust him up. ... We didn’t take any bad pics. I’m too smart.”

In November, Stamos begins communicating with “Brian L,” who prosecutors say was Sippola. The man says the photos contain images of drug-taking, alcohol use and strippers. Brian L also says he’s been offered \$780,000 in a tabloid bidding war and offers the pictures to Stamos for \$680,000, according to the e-mail read by Stamos in court.

Stamos said around this time he contacted the FBI: “I felt threatened, violated. I felt this was illegal.”

He said FBI agents began advising him what to tell Brian L and eventually handled the correspondence themselves while developing a sting operation. It ended Dec. 2 with Coss and Sippola

being arrested during a phony money drop at K.I. Sawyer International Airport near Marquette, in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

Defense attorney Frank Stupak grilled Stamos about why he repeatedly asked Coss and Brian L what the alleged photos showed if he knew there was nothing to fear. Stamos said someone might have doctored photos with a computer.

Stupak also asked whether photos of Stamos with alcohol and women under 21 would be bad for his image.

“By the way, are you a friend of Charlie Sheen?” Stupak asked.

Stamos looked amazed, but quickly replied, “No, but I know Lindsay Lohan.” The courtroom erupted in laughter.



In a Monday, Nov. 16, 2009 photo, actor John Stamos is honored with star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

'The Hills' fans lament end of MTV reality series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hills," the landmark reality soap that cemented Lauren Conrad, Heidi Montag and their pals as tabloid superstarlets, died Tuesday at the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood. It was 4.

The popular series' cause of death wasn't provided, but MTV president of programming Tony DiSanto previously called it "an organic culmination of this saga."

"I'm oddly devastated that it's come to an end," said Ben "B-Side" Mandelker, who blogs about "The Hills" and its New York-set offspring "The City" on bsidblog.com. "My five-year goal was to appear as a sidekick on the show, ideally with a subtitle that defines me solely as the friend of someone else. Sadly, that dream never

came to fruition."

After 102 installments, "The Hills" faded into the sunset Tuesday with a goodbye gala attended by the show's cast and a wink, wink twist ending in the final episode that had friends-with-benefits Kristin Cavallari and Brody Jenner seemingly saying goodbye in front of the Hollywood sign, then appearing in front of a backdrop on the Paramount Studios' lot.

"With 'The Hills' off the air, I no longer have to field questions about the show's authenticity," said Mandelker. "I can think of about 10 different things I'd rather do than engage in yet another dumb argument about whether or not 'The Hills' is staged. I just tell people it's like professional wrestling: Don't take it so seriously, and

enjoy the ride."

The club-hopping, music-pumping, cat-fighting, mascara-dripping, mouth-dropping, crystal-worshipping drama of "The Hills" debuted in 2006 as a spin-off of MTV's popular high school reality docudrama "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County." The series originally documented the journey of bubbly "Laguna Beach" graduate Conrad to Los Angeles.

As the show progressed, "The Hills" morphed from a coming-of-age story centering on the budding fashion designer to a splashy soap focusing on a bevy of beautiful people. Andy Dehnart, who has blogged about reality TV for more than 10 years at realityblurred.com, said the series' lush cinematography and phony authenticity left a lasting



AP
In this Aug. 31, 2006 file photo, Heidi Montag, left, and Lauren Conrad, part of the cast of the MTV show "The Hills," arrive at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards in New York.

impression on the medium.

"The legacy of 'The Hills' is that it improved the visual language of reality TV while proving that a series could be sustained in an M.C. Escher-like circle where tabloid coverage of the cast members sustained interest in a narrative that largely ignored their real lives, including the intense media coverage that generated interest in the show," said Dehnart.

Fans never seemed to mind the show's fabrications. Kelli Hughes, who has followed the series since its inception and blogs about "The Hills" and its stars at hillsfreak.blogspot.com, bemoaned that her Tuesday nights would never be the same. Despite the end of "The Hills," Hughes said she would continue to monitor the cast's off-screen exploits.

"I still plan on blogging about all the girls because, for me, that's what the show was always about," said Hughes. "The news may not flow as freely, but I will always be interested in what they are all doing. They have all had issues on-screen and off that we can relate to. That's what drew me to 'The Hills' and always kept me coming back for more."

Calif. lawmaker ponders Neverland as state park

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The former home of the King of Pop could become California's latest state park under an idea being floated by a California state lawmaker.

Assemblyman Mike Davis said Tuesday that he believes it's worth studying whether the California Department of Parks and Recreation should take over the Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara County.

The Los Angeles legislator said fans from around the world would visit Michael Jackson's former estate.

Jackson's 2,500-acre estate once housed amusement park rides and a zoo with tigers and snakes, but many of the estate's attractions were dismantled or

sold after his death in 2009.

Colony Capital LLC, a Santa Barbara-based private equity firm, took control of Neverland in a venture with Jackson after he nearly lost the estate to foreclosure. Jackson signed over control of the estate to Colony Capital for \$35 million in 2008.

That company now co-owns the estate with the Jackson family. Colony spokesman Owen Blinksilver declined to comment on the proposal.

The success of the proposal is uncertain in a state where the budget deficit stands at \$19 billion. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger previously proposed selling the state's landmark buildings to raise cash to cover the shortfall.

"Given that we have an economic shortfall ... I suspect it would be difficult for the State Parks Department to purchase the property alone," Davis said. He would propose a public-private partnership.

Davis said the plan remains only an idea at the moment and that he might introduce a bill or resolution on the matter after lawmakers return from their monthlong recess in August.

"I am committed to finding out all the details possible to make this a good proposal," Davis said. He also said NAACP president Alice Huffman and others approached him with the idea. Huffman's office did not immediately return a call Tuesday.

Rip Torn applies for probation in break-in

LITCHFIELD, Connecticut (AP)—Prosecutors on Tuesday dropped a felony burglary charge against actor Rip Torn, clearing the way for him to seek special probation that might settle charges that he broke into a bank while drunk and armed in January.

The Emmy-winning actor, 79, applied for accelerated rehabilitation, a program for first-time nonviolent offenders that allows charges to be dropped after a probation period.

Prosecutors will argue against the application at a hearing Aug. 11, Litchfield State's Attorney

David Shepack said. Torn spoke in court Tuesday to answer questions from the judge only.

Despite opposing the special probation request, Shepack said dropping the burglary charge was appropriate because nothing indicated Torn intended to burglarize the Salisbury bank when he broke in, thinking it was his own nearby home. He was carrying a loaded gun.

That felony burglary charge had blocked Torn from requesting the special probation.

He has pleaded not guilty to criminal trespass, carrying a weapon while intoxicated, car-

rying a weapon without a permit and criminal mischief.

He completed an alcohol rehabilitation program over the winter and remains in outpatient treatment including Alcoholics Anonymous, and has gotten rid of all his weapons, his attorney said.

"He's done very well and all reports have been successful in treatment and abstinence," attorney A. Thomas Waterfall said Tuesday, calling the treatment "an ongoing endeavor."

Shepack did not elaborate during court proceedings Tuesday on why prosecutors would oppose the special probation request, and a message seeking comment was not immediately returned.



Torn

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NOW SHOWING



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Thursday 1:20 4:10 7:20

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel
 Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Based on the Fantasia short, Walt Disney resurrects the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" story with this children's fantasy film starring Jay Baruchel as an apprentice of a magician (Nicolas Cage) who makes a mess of their workshop when his master is out. Teresa Palmer plays the love interest in the Jon Turteltaub-helmed production.



Despicable Me

Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05

Steve Carell, Jason Segel
 Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A man (voiced by Steve Carell) who's in the midst of making plans to steal the moon is sidetracked when he's put in charge of three orphans in this computer-generated 3-D animated film by directors Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin. Jason Segel, Kristen Wiig, Will Arnett, Danny McBride, Russell Brand, and Julie Andrews also lend their voices to the Universal Pictures production.



Predators

Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25

Adrien Brody, Alice Braga
 Action, Science fiction • Rated R

Synopsis

Maverick filmmaker Robert Rodriguez tackles producing duties for a revamp of the Predator film series with this 20th Century Fox/Troublemaker Studios production focusing on a human survival adventure set on the Predator's home planet. Konrad's Nimrod Antal directs from a script by Alex Litvak and Michael Finch, with Adrien Brody heading up an international cast filled out by Danny Trejo, Alice Braga, Tophir Grace, Oleg Taktarov, Mahershalalhashbaz Ali, and Louiz Ozawa.



Twilight Saga: Eclipse

Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Airbender

Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15

Noah Ringer, Nicola Peltz
 Adventure, Family • Rated PG



Grown Ups

Thursday 1:10 4:20 7:10

Adam Sandler, Kevin James
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Karate Kid

Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00

Jackie Chan, Jaden Smith
 Drama • Rated PG

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Zac Efron gets pitching lessons from Braves coach

ATLANTA (AP)—Zac Efron got a few fastball pointers from Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell at an Atlanta baseball camp Tuesday. The teen heartthrob visited the Dan Perez Baseball Camp while on a promotional stop for his

new movie, "Charlie St. Cloud." Efron worked the crowd, signing autographs and playing catch with the young all-stars at the camp.

In the new movie, which is based on a novel, Efron plays a high school student

whose love of baseball helps him cope after his little brother dies in a car accident.

Efron's new movie opens July 30. Best known for the "High School Musical" series, Efron has also starred in movies "17 Again" and "Hairspray."

Cruz, Bardem marry in the Bahamas

NEW YORK (AP)—It's a match made in Oscar heaven: Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem have gotten married.

Cruz's representative Amanda Silverman confirms the couple were married in the beginning of July at a friend's house in the Bahamas.

She said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Tuesday the ceremony for the 36-year-old Cruz and the 41-year-old Bardem was a small one that

only family members attended.

Cruz's wedding dress was designed by a longtime friend, fashion designer John Galliano.

Cruz and Bardem are from Spain. They appeared together in the 2008 Woody Allen romantic comedy "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." Cruz won a supporting-actress Oscar for her role.

Bardem won a supporting-actor Oscar for the 2007 crime thriller "No Country for Old Men."



AP
In this May 23, 2010 file photo, actor Javier Bardem and actress Penelope Cruz arrive during the awards ceremony at the 63rd international film festival, in Cannes, southern France, Sunday, May 23, 2010.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Orlando Bloom gets honorary degree in home town

LONDON (AP)—Hollywood actor Orlando Bloom has returned to his English hometown to receive an honorary degree from the University of Kent. The "Lord of the Rings" and "Pirates of the Caribbean" star sported a red gown and mortarboard as he took his place along with more than 340 graduates for the ceremony at Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday. The 33 year old was born in Canterbury in Kent, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) from London. He said ahead of Tuesday's ceremony that he felt honored to be back in his hometown. He was joined by his fiancée, Miranda Kerr, his parents and his sister Samantha.

Ne-Yo sued over failure to appear at Wash. concert

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP)—R&B singer Ne-Yo and his booking agency are being sued in Maryland by a promoter over the performer's failure to appear at a 2008 New Year's Eve concert in Washington state. The lawsuit is scheduled for trial later this month in Anne Arundel County, where Ne-Yo's booking agent, Mike Esterman, is based. Kenyohn Clark's lawsuit seeks \$1 million in damages from Ne-Yo, whose real name is Shaffer Smith, and Esterman. Clark claims the botched concert damaged his reputation and that Esterman refused to refund a \$95,000 deposit. The lawsuit says there was no excuse for Ne-Yo's failure to appear at the show in Bellevue, Washington. Tickets were sold for \$125 to \$1,275. Ne-Yo's attorney, John Scaldara, says he believes the singer will win the lawsuit.

U2 announces rescheduled dates for US tour

NEW YORK (AP)—The U2 summer concerts that were postponed after Bono's back surgery have been rescheduled for the spring and summer of 2011. The band was supposed to start the second U.S. leg of their "360" tour on June 3 in Salt Lake City, but Bono had to undergo emergency surgery in May. Live Nation announced Tuesday that the rescheduled tour will start May 21 in Denver and run through July 23, 2011, in Minneapolis. U2 Manager Paul McGuinness thanked fans for their patience, saying: "The band wants to get back to where they belong, surrounded by their audience." The band starts their European tour Aug. 6 in Turin, Italy.

Plea deal done in theft of Julie Newmar's jewelry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man accused of stealing jewelry from Julie Newmar has pleaded no contest to grand theft. Robert Ouriel entered the plea Tuesday in Los Angeles and was sentenced to three years probation and 45 days of community service. The 49-year-old Ouriel has been described as an acquaintance of Newmar, who played the first Catwoman on the 1960s TV show "Batman." The actress spotted the stolen jewelry for sale on eBay and estimated it was worth \$150,000. Ouriel's attorney Jeffrey Rubenstein says his client took the plea bargain so he could move on with his life. A restitution hearing is scheduled for Sept. 14.

Sela Ward stepping into 'CSI: NY' this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Sela Ward is coming aboard "CSI: NY." CBS said Tuesday that Ward will join the crime drama this fall for its seventh season. She will play an experienced investigator arriving from Washington, D.C. Ward won best actress Emmys for her roles on the dramas "Sisters" and "Once and Again." She also landed a Golden Globe award for "Once and Again." She will replace exiting cast member Melina Kanakaredes, whose departure was announced Monday. The show resumes production on July 28.

Shawn Johnson stalker sent to mental hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has sent a man convicted of stalking Shawn Johnson to a California mental hospital for five years. Robert O'Ryan previously was found to be legally insane when he broke onto the studio lot where the Olympic gold medalist was performing last year on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." The order Tuesday came after doctors evaluated O'Ryan, who had traveled from Florida to Los Angeles to try to meet the gymnast. During trial, a prosecutor described O'Ryan as harboring a dangerous obsession involving Johnson. After the arrest of O'Ryan, police found two loaded guns, a knife and love notes addressed to Johnson in his car.

Hill, McGraw-led flood benefit raises \$2.2M

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—The Nashville Rising benefit concert led by Faith

Hill and Tim McGraw has raised over \$2.2 million (€1.75 million) for flood victims in middle Tennessee. The total came from sold-out ticket sales, donations and sponsorships. Last month's all-star concert included performances by Hill, McGraw, Miley Cyrus, Billy Ray Cyrus, Carrie Underwood, Blake Shelton, Jason Aldean, LeAnn Rimes, Luke Bryan, Michael W. Smith, Miranda Lambert, Taylor Swift, Toby Keith and ZZ Top. Record rains the first two days of May caused over \$2 billion in damage in Nashville alone. The water forced thousands from their homes, struck some of the city's biggest landmarks and destroyed the gear of scores of musicians.

Robert Plant gets star in Memphis music sidewalk

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)—Led Zepelin frontman Robert Plant is being honored with a star in a music sidewalk in Memphis, Tennessee. Plant was presented Monday with a star that will be placed on the Orpheum Theater Sidewalk of Stars on Beale Street. The Commercial Appeal reports that the award honors Plant for what are described as tireless efforts to preserve the blues. During the presentation ceremony, Plant spoke of blues pioneers like Sonny Boy Williamson, Sleepy John Estes and W.C. Handy in acknowledging that a generation of British musicians owe a debt to early Southern blues artists.

Keith Richards' wife tells Vogue she beat cancer

NEW YORK (AP)—The wife of Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards is a cancer survivor. Patti Hansen reveals in the August issue of Vogue magazine that she was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2007. She says she first underwent chemotherapy, which shrunk the tumor but didn't get rid of it completely. One doctor said she had two to three years to live. Her next move was a bold one: Doctors removed her bladder and used her intestine to create a neobladder, or a new bladder. She also had her appendix removed and a full hysterectomy. The 54-year-old Hansen says she wants to help other women who suffer from bladder cancer. The disease is typically associated with men, but an increasing number of women are also suffering from it. The August issue of Vogue hits newsstands nationwide July 20.

Young man stuck in neutral must grab the wheel and go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Nineteen-year-old "Hopeless in Chandler, Ariz." (May 21), said he doesn't know what he wants to do with his life. When I was his age, I didn't know what I wanted to do, either. I didn't want to go to college, the military didn't interest me, and nothing I could think of seemed appealing.

My parents had factory jobs—Dad in quality control and Mom in assembly. They talked me into filling out an application at the plant. I did so grudgingly, and was hired. I figured I'd stay one or two years and then find something I liked better.

This September I'll have worked there 32 years. I have survived layoffs and reorganizations, a move to another town and the sale of the product line I started on. I consider the job I'm doing now to be my dream job, and I enjoy going to work every day.

My advice to "Hopeless" is to try something he may think he won't like, give it a chance, and see how he feels in a couple of years. He may be surprised by what he discovers.

HAPPY AND SATISFIED IN OHIO

DEAR HAPPY: Great advice! It never hurts to give something a try before deciding you don't like it. Read on for more suggestions:

DEAR ABBY: I would encourage "Hopeless" to take college transfer courses at a community college. This often leads to finding an interest. Volunteer and/or get a part-time job. If nothing else, those experiences can eliminate some fields of endeavor or spark an interest in something he has not yet considered.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
COUNSELOR IN MURPHY, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: "Hopeless" should sign with a temp agency. I worked as a temp during my college breaks and was introduced to various office settings, technologies and career opportunities. One summer's temporary placement—answering phones and doing clerical work—led to a higher-level position the following summer after graduation. I took it and couldn't have been happier.

"Hopeless" shouldn't wait for others to tell him what he should do—he should just get out there and do it! If nothing else, he may discover what he does NOT want to do and can direct his college course accordingly.

BARBARA IN KATY, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Life is what happens while you're busy making plans. "Hopeless" should choose something he enjoys doing, do it well and enjoy the experience. Most important, he should stick with it until he's sure a change is needed. Career planning works for some, but for most people life has a funny way of taking us down roads we never saw coming.

"DOC" IN LOS OSOS, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago I never would have thought of becoming a professional organizer, but that's what I am now. This is not a career that appears in any career counselor's tests, but I'm sure you wouldn't find many unusual careers in a book or test. I advise "Hopeless" to join volunteer groups and ask friends if they need help with anything. He may discover an aptitude for something he wasn't aware he possessed.

JAN IN CARLSBAD, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: There are hundreds of jobs that provide a good living—plumber, electrician, bricklayer, construction worker, appliance repairman, stonemason. The list goes on. These are jobs that keep the world spinning and keep us in the comforts we enjoy.

If "Hopeless" doesn't know what he wants, he might consider taking a year to work with AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps or Habitat for Humanity. If he uses his imagination, he can make a difference in the world.

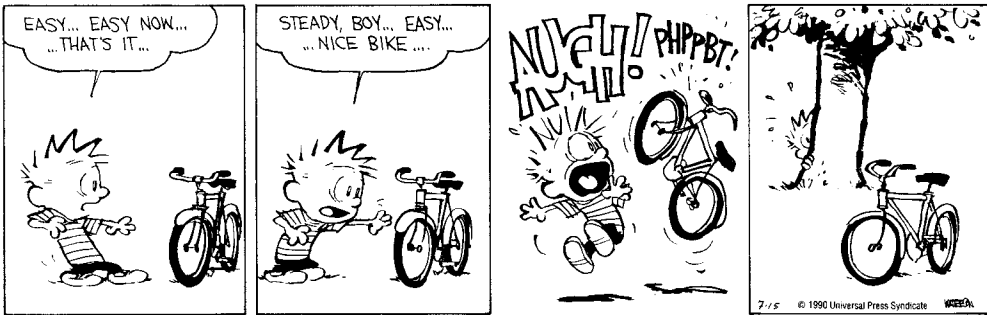
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Pastimes

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "T," in Morse code
5 Carte lead-in
8 Un-altered
12 Division word
13 Cran-berry territory
14 Ski lift type
15 Ignore
16 Seek damages
17 Venomous vipers
18 Lacks the skills to
20 Loathe
22 CBS newsmen
23 Sprint
24 Bedouin
27 Almond liqueur
32 Tavern
33 Corn holder
34 Wet wiggler

DOWN

19 Either-
21 Blunder
24 Spring mo.
25 Regret
26 Graph coordinate
28 Larry's pal
29 Soaked up
30 Ball holder
31 See 7-Down
36 Verse
37 Charged bit
38 Superficial
41 Lindbergh book
42 Piece of work
43 Grate
44 Squad
46 Cotton quantity
47 Squared
48 Information
51 Support of a sort

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Austin Green, 37; Forest Whitaker, 49; Terry O'Quinn, 58; Linda Ronstadt, 64

Happy Birthday: There are so many opportunities to fulfill your chosen plans this year. Your practical outlook and hard, dedicated work will pay off, bringing about an offer that will be hard to turn down. A move can help you out financially. Both personally and professionally, the time to initiate change is now. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 27, 31, 25, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Cut your losses personally, professionally or financially. Working from home may be difficult at first but it's your uncertainty that stands in your way. Sometimes you have to give something up in order to get something better. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make a strategic move that will help you personally and professionally. Networking will lead to an opportunity you don't expect. Your determination, drive and leadership ability will lead to an interesting offer. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't rely on promises. You will be left to your own devices when it comes to financial or personal responsibilities. An emotional issue will arise if you are not attentive or flirt with someone you should probably leave alone. Follow through with any agreement you make. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let uncertainties caused by others lower your confidence. You have the discipline, energy and mindset to accomplish whatever you

decide to do. A professional decision that affects your position shouldn't be looked at as a negative. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to get out and experience new people, places and pastimes. Get involved in something that can alter the way you live and think. Ask questions and share your vision. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Taking an aggressive path will show others you are serious about your pursuits. Take care of personal matters or do something that will make you feel good about yourself and your future. Love is in the stars. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As long as you stay on top of matters, you will do just fine. As soon as you let someone interfere or influence your decision-making, things will spin out of control. Don't mince words or lead anyone on. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An aggressive approach will be your best bet and will bring the highest returns. Publishing, traveling or researching new ways to make the most of something you are already doing will lead to greater advancement. Money is apparent if you launch a project. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can expect to meet with opposition no matter what you do or with whom you deal. There is a chance to make money by cutting your overhead. Making changes to your residence or investing in a service or skill you have will eventually pay off. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put yourself on the line. You have what it takes to accomplish your goals. There is money in the stars and deals that can turn your life around. Your expertise, skills and talent will not let you down. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may think someone you are dealing with is being critical but it's likely this person just wants to help you be and do your best. Try to be patient and use the advice being offered. Out of chaos will come peace and opportunity. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your indecisiveness might cause you to miss out on a great opportunity to partner with someone intent on being successful. Don't shy away or opt to take part in recreational activities when a little hard work has the potential to change your world. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are practical and always striving for perfection. You have clear vision and are aggressive, intense and helpful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	1	9	4	3	7	8	2
8	3	2	1	7	5	6	9	4
7	9	4	2	6	8	5	1	3
1	4	9	5	3	2	8	6	7
3	7	6	8	9	4	1	2	5
5	2	8	6	1	7	4	3	9
9	6	3	4	5	1	2	7	8
2	1	5	7	8	9	3	4	6
4	8	7	3	2	6	9	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/15

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WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

USA PAVILION AT EXPO 2010 Solution: 7 letters

S S C Y A R G L I M P S E S C
S T I O P E N S U D G N E H C
N N U M O S E D I S S U A A O
O E E O P L A N S E Q L M N M
I M E D Y L S A M I L G E G M
T E T R R A E B N E L N R H U
A L A R G A L U N I O I I A N
V E G I U E G G F S O J C I I
O S T S E B E E D G P I A M T
N R R E S Y S M A N A E N M Y
N E E A T T N E N I M B T O R
I V T G Y I A H C W W O H S O
D I T L T C E T E X H I B I T
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A H B D I S C O V E R E T A W

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Yesterday's Answer: Reflect

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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS


IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ROSARIO DLG. VILLAGOMEZ AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF RODANEE DLG. VILLAGOMEZ Minor Child)
By)
ROSARIO DLG. VILLAGOMEZ)
Petitioner)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Rosario Dlg. Villagomez, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court. A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo on the 30th day of August, 2010 at 1:30pm or as soon as thereafter.
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court


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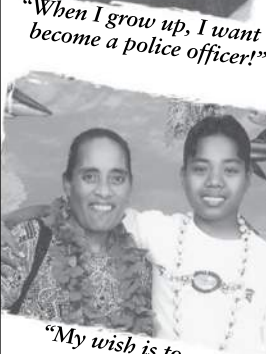
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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Opening Date: January 6, 2010

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NOTE: This is a revised announcement. Position Description may be subject to modification upon hire.


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SALARY: \$100,000 to \$120,000 per year.
CONTRACT: TWO-YEAR
POSITION: One.

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Yankees owner Steinbrenner dies at 80



NEW YORK
(AP)—He was baseball's bombastic

Boss. He rebuilt the New York Yankees dynasty, ushering in the era of multi-million-dollar salaries and accepting nothing less in return than World Series championships. He fired managers. Rehired them. And fired them again.

He butted heads with commissioners and fellow owners, insulted his players and dominated tabloid headlines—even upstaging the All-Star game on the day of his death.

George Michael Steinbrenner III, who both inspired and terrorized the Yankees in more than three decades as owner, died Tuesday of a heart attack at age 80.

"He was and always will be as much of a New York Yankee as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and all of the other Yankee legends," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

Once reviled by fans for his overbearing and tempestuous nature, Steinbrenner mellowed in his final decade and became beloved by employees and rivals alike for his success.

Steinbrenner was taken from his home to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, Fla., and died about 6:30 a.m., a person close to the owner told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not disclosed those details.

"George was a fierce competitor who was the perfect fit for the city that never sleeps—colorful, dynamic and always reaching for the stars," former President Bill Clinton said.

Yankees captain Derek Jeter added: "He expected perfection."

In 37 1/2 years as owner, Steinbrenner whipped a moribund \$10 million team into a \$1.6 billion colossus that became the model of a modern franchise, one with its own TV network and ballpark food business.

Under his often brutal but always colorful reign, the Yankees won seven World Series championships, 11 American League pennants and 16 AL East titles, going on spectacular spending sprees that caused Larry Lucchino, president of the rival Boston Red Sox, to dub Steinbrenner's Yankees the "Evil Empire."

He moved the Yankees from their tradition-rich "House that Ruth Built" into a new \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium. Call it the "House the Boss Built." He appeared there just four times: the April 2009 opener, the first two games of last year's World Series and this year's home opener, when Jeter and manager Joe Girardi went to his suite and personally delivered his seventh World Series ring.

"He was very emotional," son Hal Steinbrenner said then.

Steinbrenner's larger-than-life outbursts transcended sports and made him a pop culture figure whose firings were parodied on the TV comedy "Seinfeld" and even by Steinbrenner himself in commercials.

"George was The Boss, make no mistake," said Berra, the Hall of Famer who ended a 14-year feud with Steinbrenner in 1999. "He built the Yankees into champions, and that's something nobody can ever deny. He was a very generous, caring, passionate man. George and I had our differences, but



This Feb. 28, 1988, file photo shows New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner flanked by manager Billy Martin, left, and vice president and general manager Lou Piniella, right, at spring training in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. AP

who didn't? We became great friends over the last decade and I will miss him very much."

Steinbrenner's death, about 14 hours before the first pitch of the All-Star game in Anaheim, Calif., was the second in three days to rock the Yankees. Bob Sheppard, the team's revered public address announcer from 1951-07, died Sunday at 99.

A video tribute was shown and play-

ers bowed their heads during a moment of silence before the national anthem was played at Angel Stadium. Jeter and the Yankees wore black armbands, and the U.S., Canadian and California flags were lowered to half-staff.

New York was 11 years removed from its last championship when Steinbrenner, then an obscure son of an Ohio shipbuilder, headed a group that bought the team from CBS Inc.

on Jan. 3, 1973, for about \$8.7 million net.

Forbes now values the Yankees at \$1.6 billion, trailing only Manchester United (\$1.8 billion) and the Dallas Cowboys (\$1.65 billion).

Former commissioner Fay Vincent, who fought many battles with Steinbrenner, said his legacy would be turning the Yankees "into an absolute gold mine and a monster of power and suc-

cess in baseball."

"He was one of the few who realized this was an iconic franchise, and he could turn it into something really special, and he did," Vincent said.

Steinbrenner ruled with obsessive dedication to detail—from trades to the airblowers that kept his ballparks spotless. When he thought the club's parking lot was too crowded, Steinbrenner stood on the pavement—albeit behind a van, out of sight—and had a guard check every driver's credential.

But he also tried to make up for his temper with good deeds and often-unpublicized charitable donations.

His rule was interrupted by two lengthy suspensions, including a 15-month ban in 1974 after pleading guilty to conspiring to make illegal contributions to the re-election campaign of President Richard Nixon. Steinbrenner was fined \$15,000 and later pardoned by President Ronald Reagan.

He also was banned for 2 1/2 years for paying self-described gambler Howie Spira to obtain negative information on outfielder Dave Winfield, with whom Steinbrenner was feuding.

Through it all, Steinbrenner lived up to his billing as "The Boss," a nickname he clearly enjoyed as he ruled with an iron fist. While he lived in Florida in his later years, he was a staple on the front pages of New York newspapers with his tirades.

McCann comes up big, NL finally wins All-Star game



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—A terrible toss to first base. A fly ball that fell just short. An O-fer

by their boppers.

This sure was shaping up to be another lost night for the National League.

Then, one key swing by Brian McCann and a heads-up play by right fielder Marlon Byrd ended an inexplicable All-Star funk.

McCann hit a three-run double in the seventh inning, Byrd alertly threw out David Ortiz to slow a ninth-inning rally and the NL captured its first Midsummer Classic since 1996 with a 3-1 victory Tuesday night.

"Enough was enough," St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright said.

In a year of dominant pitching, young starters David Price and Ubaldo Jimenez set the tone—and got even more help from the tricky shadows. Nearly the entire field at Angel Stadium was bathed in odd patterns of sunlight for a twilight first pitch, creating more awkward swings and misses than usual in baseball's annual talent show.

Even that bouncing Rally Monkey on the big screen in a red AL jersey couldn't change things this time. The National League earns home-field advantage in this year's World Series.

"It's a big deal. I think home teams play better at home," said NL manager Charlie Manuel, whose Phillies have reached the last two World Series and won in 2008. "It feels good, it feels real good. I talked to our guys before the game and told them how important home-field advantage was."

The AL didn't go down without some ninth-inning drama, started by Ortiz's leadoff single. But Jonathan

Broxton sealed it, helped by Byrd's defense and shaky baserunning by Big Papi.

Ortiz was on first with one out when John Buck hit a blooper that Byrd scooped up and threw to second for a forceout on the slow-moving Boston DH.

"Wrong place, wrong time—and the wrong guy, too," Ortiz said. "I saw where he was playing, but I didn't know that Marlon Byrd's a guy who has great speed in the outfield. So I saw him coming in and I thought he was going to catch it. I just didn't want to get caught in a double play, so I got in between, it bounced in front of him and he made a good throw to second base."

With Alex Rodriguez standing on the steps in the AL dugout, Ian Kinsler flied out and the NL had its win. A-Rod never got in the game.

"It felt awesome for us to get the win and break the streak," Broxton said.

Washington closer Matt Capps got the win with just five pitches, striking out Home Run Derby champion Ortiz. Yankees starter Phil Hughes took the loss after allowing two hits before Matt Thornton yielded McCann's decisive double.

Until MVP McCann cleared the bases, Robinson Cano's fifth-inning sacrifice fly stood as the lone run in a game expected to be decided by the loaded pitching staffs on each side. McCann's deep fly ball to the warning track in right gave the NL hope in the fifth. When he made good with that bases-loaded double off Thornton, Atlanta's steady catcher hit second base and pumped his right fist. The three guys who scored headed to the dugout with a renewed swagger.

"You dream of moments like this as a kid. It was amazing," said McCann, a

five-time All-Star relatively unknown before this night.

Cano and his fellow Yankees All-Stars wore black armbands after the death of longtime New York owner George Steinbrenner from a heart attack earlier Tuesday in Tampa, Fla., at age 80. Pictures of The Boss showed on two video screens before a pregame moment of silence, and flags hung at half-staff.

"It's a difficult time, on a great day for baseball, the All-Star game, something everyone looks to," Yankees and AL manager Joe Girardi said. "A great man in baseball passed. He's meant so much to not only this organization, but to the game of baseball, and to all of us personally."

It took the NL 14 years to break through after several close calls. The National League lost the last two 4-3, including that 15-inning affair in 2008 at Yankee Stadium. The two before that were also one-run defeats. In 2002, they tied 7-7.

Phillies chairman Bill Giles had razed Manuel that his job was on the line if the NL didn't finally win again.

Turns out this National League lineup didn't need star Washington rookie Stephen Strasburg—though the phenom pitcher might have generated a nice buzz around the ballpark in those early innings.

Jimenez, Colorado's 15-game winner and first-time All-Star, came out of the gate with two scoreless innings. Price—who at 24 was the youngest All-Star starter since 23-year-old Dwight Gooden of the Mets in 1988—matched that. Then came Marlins ace Josh Johnson, two more.

It took until the fifth inning for hitters to start making regular contact, the shadows all but gone aside from a couple of small patches in the outfield.

With a first-pitch temperature of 85 degrees, this was a steamy summer night even by Southern California standards.

Neither offense did much to excite a relatively quiet Orange County crowd of 45,408. There were noticeable empty seats high in the third deck of right field.

Heath Bell's all-out sprint in from the bullpen to face local Angels favorite Torii Hunter generated some of the only roars all night.

"McCann came up with that three-run double, and that can break your back with the pitching they have over there," Hunter said. "It bummed me out, but I was having so much fun out there, playing in my own ballpark. That's what this game is really all about—having fun."

The NL squandered its best early opportunity with runners on the corners and one out in the fifth. Justin Verlander struck out Corey Hart and got McCann on the long fly to right.

Dodgers reliever Hong-Chih Kuo put the AL in good position—men on second and third with no outs—when he stopped Joe Mauer's comebacker and sailed a routine throw to first high over the head of Adrian Gonzalez.

Evan Longoria scored the go-ahead run, which was unearned.

Manuel was surprised not to see A-Rod, the Yankees star with 597 career homers. Girardi considered using him as a pinch runner if the tying run got aboard in the ninth.

"We had a couple of situations where I could have gone in, but it was up to him on which situation to put me in," Rodriguez said. "Joe probably decided it was best—unless he really needed me—not to use me. ... It would have been fun, but maybe next time."

The NL leads the overall All-Star game series 41-38-2.

Tour now a 1-2 battle between Schleck and Contador



SAINT-JEAN-DE-MAURIENNE, France

(AP)—Tour de France leader Andy Schleck is working to turn up the pressure on Alberto Contador as he and the defending champion lock into a two-way battle for supremacy.

With seven-time champion Lance Armstrong and two-time runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia out of contention, Schleck leads Spaniard Contador by just 41 seconds after Tuesday's 9th stage and the Luxembourg rider is trying to unsettle his Spanish rival.

"I think we're pretty equal," Schleck said. "If he wants to win this, he's got to attack me."

Sandy Casar won the stage in a thrilling sprint finish, with Schleck and Contador closing in fast as the Frenchman crossed the line narrowly ahead of Luis-Leon Sanchez of Spain and Damiano Cunego of Italy.

The front three clocked 5 hours, 38 minutes, 10 seconds, two seconds faster than Schleck and Contador.

Casar's win was spectacular, but the real drama unfolded elsewhere during the 204.5-kilometer (127-mile) trek from Morzine to Saint-Jean-La-Maurienne high in the French Alps.

After a stalemate up the opening two category 1 climbs—Col de la Colombiere and Col des Saisies—Schleck tried to break Contador on the mammoth finale up the Col de la Madeleine, so tough it is without classification.

Schleck surged ahead no fewer than three times, but each time Contador controlled the attacks.

"The others can also attack, but they don't," Schleck said. "Right now it looks like it's Alberto vs. me."

Contador was only moderately impressed.

"I should not be distracted, but like I said yesterday, the most dangerous (rival) is Andy Schleck," he said.

Schleck claimed after Sunday's 8th stage—the one which effectively destroyed both Evans and Armstrong's Tour chances—that Contador was showing signs of weakness.

The 25-year-old Schleck still hopes to "find a weak day when he is not super, and I can gain more time on him."

Contador dominated the Tour climbs last year, but Schleck is stronger now, and—like Armstrong used to do to German rider Jan Ullrich in his prime—in trying to apply pressure with double-edged compliments.

"It's possible (Contador) might be better in the Pyrenees. Me too, you know," Schleck said, pausing before adding, "I think I will be better in the Pyrenees than him."

Tuesday's stage knocked the overnight leader Evans out of the equation, and he is unlikely to get a podium place.

"I had a big crash at the start of that day (Sunday) and I'm really



Lance Armstrong of the US, Geraint Thomas of Britain, Alberto Contador of Spain, and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, from right to left, ride in the pack during the seventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 165.5 kilometers (102.8 miles) with start in Tournus and finish in Station des Rousses, France, Saturday, July 10, 2010.

paying the consequences from that," Evans said.

Riding with a fractured left elbow, Evans dropped to 18th place overall and nearly eight minutes behind Schleck.

Briefly putting aside their rivalry, Schleck and Contador hammered more time into Evans and other rivals.

"We had to join to distance the others, the circumstances were

like this," Contador said. "Now we have to be very (watchful of) each other."

Armstrong, who was affected by three crashes Sunday, fared better Tuesday, finishing the stage in 18th place compared to 61st.

But he lost more time overall and languishes in 31st spot overall, 15:54 behind Schleck.

Armstrong and his RadioShack team are now focus-

ing on getting his fellow American rider Levi Leipheimer into a podium place.

Spanish rider Samuel Sanchez is third and is 1:14 ahead of Leipheimer, who is sixth overall ahead of Wednesday's 10th stage from Chambéry to Gap: a 179-kilometer (111.1-mile) route featuring a single category 1 climb.

"We have got to help Levi stay

up as high as he can," Armstrong said. "With his ability to time trial, hopefully we can come close to (getting him on) the podium."

Tuesday's Madeleine pass was familiarly grueling for Armstrong.

"It's steep at the end and it's high. It's just hard. That's a legitimate climb," Armstrong said. "It's certainly the hardest climb we've done this year. There's no

hiding on the Madeleine."

Wednesday's stage, however, may or may not bring back fond memories for Armstrong.

Back in 2003, and seven years to the day, the stage also finished in Gap on July 14.

As Armstrong raced on a boiling hot day, his Spanish rival Joseba Beloki broke suddenly and fell in front of him when they zoomed down a hill with sharp bends.

Beloki's fall on the sticky tarmac forced Armstrong to swerve dramatically, pick up his bike, run across a field and down a short bank before re-saddling; a fantastic moment of improvisation that underlined his dash and daring.

"I hope I stay out of the field (on Wednesday)," Armstrong said, ironically, reflecting on 2003, the year he almost lost the Tour to Ullrich. "There's no way I could pull that off two times in a row."

Armstrong's had bad luck this year, but accepts it gracefully—knowing it should probably have happened before.

"Most experts are still in disbelief that in seven years, no mishaps, no major problems We always dodged bullets there," he said. "Speaking about Gap: How lucky? Just look at that as the one example of those seven years."

"Who's to say that entry way is there into that field (this time around)? Five feet previously, five feet after ... and you don't finish the Tour de France."

Al Jefferson headed from Wolves to Jazz



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—In their quest to get more athletic, faster and financially flexible, the Minnesota Timberwolves were looking to move power forward Al Jefferson's slow-it-down, low-post game and chunky contract.

The Utah Jazz were searching for a replacement for Carlos Boozer who can score and rebound on the block and divert some attention from star point guard Deron Williams on the perimeter.

They found the right match in each other.

The Timberwolves agreed to send Jefferson to the Jazz for two future first-round draft picks and center Kosta Koufos, the teams confirmed Tuesday. Utah used the traded player exception it got from Chicago in the Boozer deal to complete the transaction and give Minnesota even more salary cap flexibility going forward.

Jefferson averaged 17.1 points and 9.3 rebounds last season for the Timberwolves in his first year back from a major knee injury in February 2009. But the Wolves have signed center Darko Milicic, agreed to terms with center Nikola Pekovic and traded for Michael Beasley to reshape a small front line into a bigger, and

sleeker, unit.

In the end, Jefferson was viewed as expendable because his style of play, while extremely effective on the offensive end, does not fit with what the Timberwolves want to do under coach Kurt Rambis.

"With Kevin Love and Michael Beasley on the team, there wouldn't have been enough playing time for everybody to showcase Al," Timberwolves president David Kahn said in a conference call on Tuesday night.

He will see plenty of action with the perennial playoff contender in Utah, teaming with Paul Millsap to help fill a void created when Boozer went to Chicago.

"We are happy to acquire a young power player who has developed into one of the best low-post scorers in the league," Jazz GM Kevin O'Connor said in a statement provided by the team. "We gave up significant assets to obtain Al and we look forward to watching him progress with our team."

Jefferson came to the Timberwolves in 2007 as the main cog in the blockbuster deal that sent Kevin Garnett to Boston. He averaged 23.1 points and 11 rebounds in 50 games the following season before he blew out his right knee in 2009.

Jefferson was the last re-

maining player from that deal. Former general manager Kevin McHale was fond of Jefferson's footwork and wide array of low-post moves, the kind of old-school, back-to-the-basket game that worked so well for McHale as a Hall of Fame player in Boston.

The match looked promising at the beginning, with Jefferson signing a five-year, \$65 million contract and averaging 21 points and 11.1 rebounds in his first season in Minnesota. He was pushing for the All-Star team in his second season, dominating offensively when he tore ligaments in his right knee in the final game before the break in New Orleans.

The 25-year-old Jefferson came into the league during the down years in Boston and was traded to lowly Minnesota, so he's never known what it's like to play for a winner.

Now he will.

"I think that Al recognizes that it will be at least a couple more years before we're really humming," Kahn said. "He's at a point in his career where he wants to experience what it's like to win. I don't have a problem with that. I completely understand where he's coming from."

The Jazz needed to make a move after losing Boozer (five

years, \$75 million) and Kyle Korver (three years, \$15 million) to the Bulls, two defections that will make this season more challenging for Williams.

The Jazz orchestrated a sign-and-trade deal with the Bulls for Boozer in exchange for roughly \$14 million in value in this trade exception, allowing them to swing a deal just like the one they agreed to with Minnesota. Jefferson has three years and \$42 million left on his contract, but the exception allows the Jazz to take on his salary without exceeding the cap.

"Al is motivated to have a career-defining season and I recognize the Jazz will be the recipients of that, not us," Kahn said. "I expect him to help Utah immensely."

The Jazz will also send Minnesota the conditional first-round pick it got from Memphis in the Ronnie Brewer trade, plus another future first-rounder.

For all of his skill on offense, Jefferson has been a liability on defense, and his game is tailor-made for the half-court style that Jerry Sloan likes in Utah.

While the Wolves did not get any current players back for arguably their best player, Kahn called the financial flexibility they earned "enormous" and said the team isn't done making

moves yet. They are in talks with Milwaukee free agent Luke Ridnour, but Kahn hinted that bigger things still may be in the works.

"We're only about halfway through this exercise," he said.

Hornets, GM Jeff Bower part ways

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—

The Hornets and general manager Jeff Bower have "mutually agreed" to part ways immediately.

The Hornets announced Tuesday that Bower was leaving after spending more than 14 seasons with the club in various capacities. He was the club's GM since 2005.

Hornets President Hugh Weber says it was in the best interest of the club to part ways with Bower at this time and that a search for a general manager is already under way.

Bower took over as head coach nine games into last season after the firing of Byron Scott, leading the Hornets to a 34-39 record that left the club at 37-45 overall and out of the playoffs. He went back to the front office during the offseason, when Monty Williams was hired as the Hornets' new coach.

Wings Travel, MBI rout foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

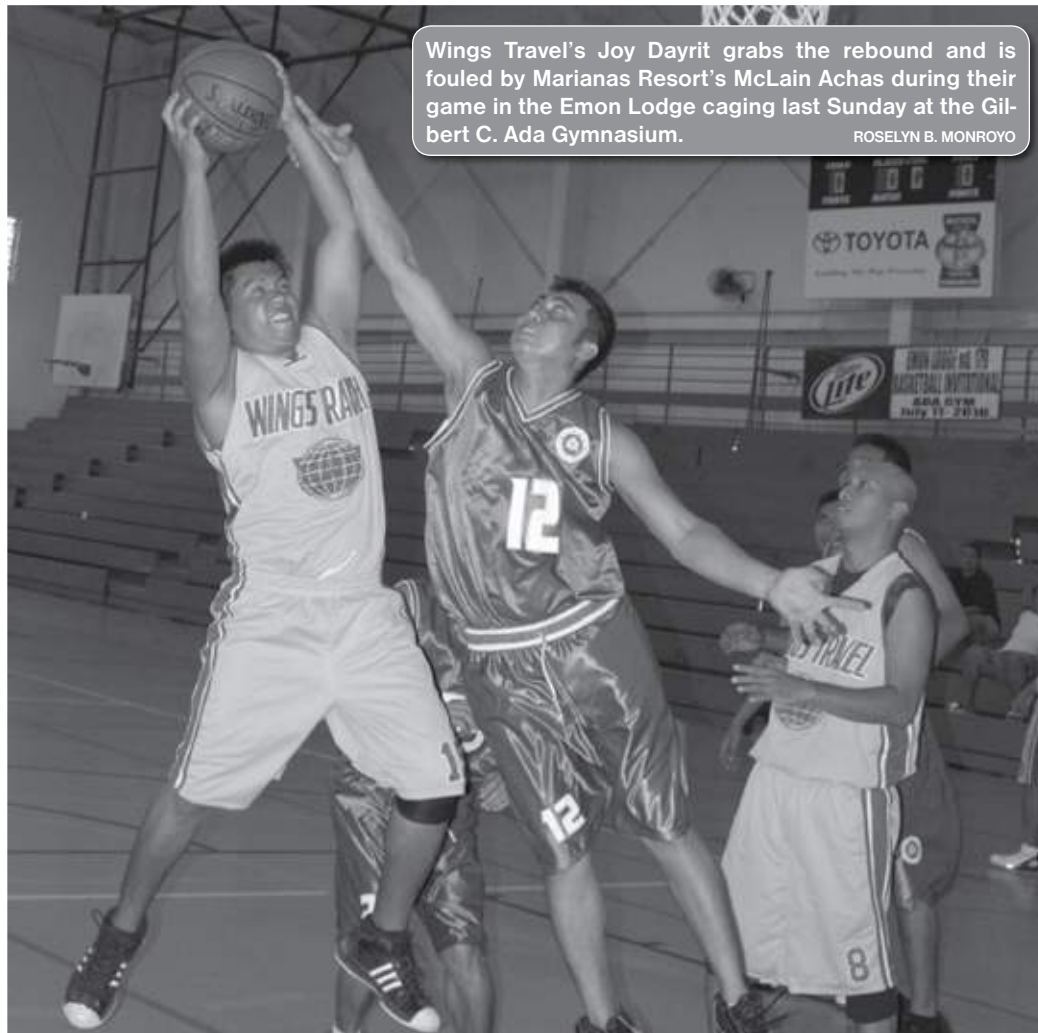


The last two games in the opening day of the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League resulted on routs after Wings Travel and MBI Right Guard clobbered separate foes last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Wings Travel played in the penultimate game on opening day and crushed Marianas Resort, 88-66, while MBI Right Guard saw action in the last match and whipped Tropical Laundry, 112-71. Also winning their debut games were Armatech, Marianas Wireless, and Mobil.

Wings Travel had a 10-0 run at the start of the first quarter and never relinquished the lead from thereon. The winning team took a 22-9 lead at the end of the first period and almost doubled their margin at halftime after taking a 39-25 advantage.

Marianas Resort lacked the offensive firepower to overhaul



Wings Travel's Joy Dayrit grabs the rebound and is fouled by Marianas Resort's McLain Achas during their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Masters 3-on-3 caging set for July 31



The Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI will be holding the "Summer Blast 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament Fund-raiser" on July 31 at the Pacific Islands Club court.

The one-day tournament will be held in cooperation with PIC and Pacific Trading Co.

Interested teams need to pay only \$175 to join the tournament. Registration fee covers uniform and PIC water park passes. Players are also entitled to win raffle prizes.

Squads can have as many as five players in their roster. Format and rules of the 3-on-3 caging will be announced days before the tournament kicks off.

MBFNMI president Ray Lizama said the 3-on-3 tournament aims to keep Masters players active this summer after the association concluded two tournaments. MBFNMI finished its inaugural 35A league early last month and then held a Liberation Day

caging early this month.

Deadline to register for the 3-on-3 caging is set for July 24. For more information, contact Joe Pangelinan at 234-6925, Arnold Erediano at 234-9797 or 888-1610, e-mail MBFNMI at mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com.

CPR training sign-up deadline

Meanwhile, MBFNMI is reminding its members that the deadline for registration for the CPR/AED training is on July 16.

The American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter will be conducting the CPR/AED training for officials, coaches, and board of directors this month.

"MBFNMI will be the first basketball organization to hold such CPR/AED training. Playing sports make players prone to injuries so we should know how to administer proper care to players who need immediate medical attention," an earlier statement from MBFNMI stated. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



IT&E's John Palacios tries to keep his balance, while Easy Does It's Emir Abuan looks on during their title game in the 35A caging last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Masters players and officials will undergo CPR-AED training next week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

FISHING

From Page 28

During pre-registration, Saipan Fishing Association officials will briefly go over the rules and regulations followed soon after by the blessing of the boats.

Participating boats and their crew will compete in six categories and, of course, the grand prize for who trolls in the biggest marlin. Other categories include billfish, yellow fin, wahoo, mahi, skipjack, and total weight. Prizes and awards will

be given out to the Top 3 placers for the five categories of fish.

All participating boats must comply with the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety regulations. The SFA recommends that all boats should be inspected during the week. Contact DPS-Boating Safety at 322-9182 for an appointment.

"Throughout the 26-year existence of SFA, safety is as much a part of the history as the friendships forged on the open seas... all participating boats must observe safe boating rules and regulations," said Marianas Visitors

Authority Community Projects manager, Martin Duenas.

After the tournament, an awards banquet will take place at 6pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Participants who plan on bringing guests to the banquet should purchase tickets in advance during pre-registration at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Last year, *Sta. Remedio's* captain Antonio Omar Camacho and crewmembers Anthony Camacho, Melvin Aldan, and Damian Pua were presented with \$3,000 and a replica of the six-foot tall trophy after landing

a 319.5-lb. pacific blue marlin.

Cabo Express won in the billfish category, while *Nombe* topped the yellowfin division, *Padre De Familia* ruled the wahoo category, *Tweety Bird* prevailed in the mahi-mahi, *Botin Saba* notched the skipjack and *Senor Dung* of Rota took home the Mobil Cup given to the total weight winner.

For more information, contact Frank Tudela or Ed Diaz at MVA by calling 664-3200/01 or send inquiries to ftudela@mymarianas.com or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

the lead in the second half and dropped its debut game badly.

Joy Dayrit top-scored for Wings Travel with 20 points, while Manolo Manalo added 16. Dante Olivos and Emir Abuan chipped in 13 and 12, respectively. Dayrit, Manalo, and Gamboa took the cudgels for Wings Travel early on, as the team played with only five players at the start of the game.

In the last game of the day, Rex Yabut exploded for 34 points to give MBI Right Guard a rousing debut.

MBI also drew double figures from four other players with Ivan De Vero notching 19, George Barbo chipping in 16, and Marvin Achas and Pando Muleta tallying 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

MBI led by 19 in the first half, 29-10, and by halftime were miles away from Tropical Laundry, 61-21, to cruise to an easy win.

Action in the Emon Lodge caging will resume this Sunday with following schedule:

- 8am – Sparks vs Tropical Laundry
- 9:30am – MBI vs Joeten Superstores
- 11am – Mobil vs Marianas Wireless
- 1:30pm – Armatech vs Wings Travel
- 3pm – Oches vs Marianas Resort

Wings Travel 88 – Dayrit 20, Manalo 16, Olivos 13, Abuan 12, Gamboa 10, Puno 9, Mina 6.

Marianas Resort 66 – Achas 20, Gatdula 12, Kapileo 11, Crisostimo 10, Paparilaga 6, Memban 4, Delos Reyes 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-9, 39-25, 62-42, 88-66.

MBI Right Guard 112 – Yabut 34, De Vero 19, Barbo 16, Achas 12, Muleta 10, David 9.

Tropical Laundry 71 – Salazar 19, Gomez 16, De Dios 8, Dizon 6, Banaag 6, Parko 5, Aquino 3, Paulus 2, Federizo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-10, 62-21, 81-50, 112-71.

NATIONALS

From Page 28

Iguel then anchored as 6-0 run at the start of the fourth quarter to bring the Nationals' lead back to double digits, 76-65, with 8:29 left in the game.

Teams traded baskets in the ensuing plays and after Mobil called a timeout midway in the fourth, it started to rain. When the game was about to resume, heavy rains began to pour, forcing organizers to call it a night.

VisMinda 84, MAFEA 74

In the first masters division game, VisMinda-Kids Cove defeated MAFEA, 84-74.

VisMinda's bench proved to be deeper than MAFEA's, giving the former a win in its debut game.

James Abuy top-scored for VisMinda with 20 points, while his three other teammates also finished in double figures, and four others also made it to the scoreboard. Jun Alipio chipped

in 19, Alex Ocampo had 16, and Jun Abedes added 10.

MAFEA had three players scoring in double figures, but had only six members lighting up the scoreboard. Francis Rebuyon had 28, William Opone contributed 18, and Ernie Moises logged 14.

Alipio and Abuy combined for 11 points in the first period, which ended with VisMinda ahead by only one, 18-17. Abuy added seven more points in the second period, while Ocampo drilled in eight, as VisMinda made it a 12-point game at halftime, 44-32.

MAFEA played catch up since then, but simply did not have enough manpower to make a comeback.

VisMinda-Kids Cove 84 – Abuy 20, Alipio 19, Ocampo 16, Abedes 10, Cosino 5, Pineda 6, De la Torre 4, Bicara 3.

MAFEA 74 – Rebuyon 28, Opone 18, Moises 14, Abuan 6, Pascual 6, Sevilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 44-32, 64-57, 84-74.

MIEKO

From Page 28

usual triathlon event the CNMI bet had been competing in. Kaike involves a 3-kilometer swim leg, 145-km bike race, and a 42.19-km run part.

"I just hope my body recovers quickly, as I am excited to do the Kaike race, especially the bike course. The course has great views and nice hills. It is tough and long and there are steep hills. I am sure when I am done with the bike course, I will get more confidence and be ready for the next step," said Carey, who is talking of the full marathon run course.

"The run leg will be the most challenging part. This is the part where you really have to be mentally prepared. In all

racers, especially when you are in the last leg, it is important to be mentally strong. If your mind tells you to stop, your body will stop. I hope I will make it all the way to the finish line," Carey said.

It will be Carey's third trip to Kaike. Last year, she timed in at 8:22:35 to finish 62nd out of 821 participants in the triathlon event held at Yonago City.

"The race will be hard, but I am glad I can go there, represent Saipan, and be able to race during their 30th anniversary," said Carey, who thanked Pacific Development, Inc. and Brabu Pharmacy for supporting her.

Carey and Manglona's participation in Kaike is made possible through the help of Taga, Inc. Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Visitors Authority, and Asiana Airlines.

2010 UFO Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani Soul-Jaz members and their supporters pose for a group photo after winning the best in uniform contest during the opening day of the 2010 United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marie Kastel Tambiga, left, of Bayani Soul-Jaz won the Best Muse award.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UFO's Paul Madiaga, second right, and Philippine Consulate's Joe Sto. Domingo, second left, do the ceremonial toss between MDX-Chow Queen's Kelvin Fitial, left, and the CNMI Nationals' James Lee during the opening game in the UFO caging.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Nationals listen to the announcement of league organizers.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt of the open division and Master's wWisMinda-Kids Cove join the parade of teams during the UFO caging opening.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bayani Soul-Jaz's Jun Tabora tries to keep the ball away from MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt players.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Edsel Mendoza goes for a hook shot against two Bayani Soul-Jaz players.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Badong Camacho pulls up for a shot against a Bayani Soul-Jaz defender.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Bruce Berline beats two Bayani Soul-Jaz players for the rebound.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt's Bernard Aquino goes for a layup during their game against Bayani Soul-Jaz.



28 THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Senior All-Stars face Guam in finals

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior All-Stars remained perfect but more importantly advanced to the finals following a 5-2 win against the Philippines yesterday in the Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The win, which followed rest day, capped the CNMI Seniors All-Stars' sweep of their four-team pool, but they still have to beat Guam in this morning's championship match that starts at 11:30am, Saipan time.

Guam advanced to play archrival CNMI after a 23-12 drubbing of host Indonesia also yesterday.

"It's anybody's ballgame, but I think we have the pitching advantage, so I

hope our Senior League All-Stars come home victorious," said CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada about the CNMI Seniors' chances in the finals.

If the Senior Leaguers win today, it will be the CNMI's third appearance in the Senior League World Series, which will be held this year in Bangor, Maine from Aug. 16 to 22, 2010.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars are made up of Zachary Aldan, Carl C. Camacho, Diego Camacho, Richard A. Dela Cruz, Ricardo Dela Cruz, McGarrette Duenas, Nathan M. Guerrero, Gregorio Iskawa, Jeremy Lizama, Harry T. Nakamura, Marvin Ngeskebei, Joseph B. Palacios Jr., Leonard T. Sablan, Jake P. Santos, Kevin Y. Villagomez, and Jesse Yamagishi.



After getting pummeled by division leader, Chinese Taipei, 14-1, on Tuesday, the CNMI Junior All-Stars bounced back to defeat Indonesia, 3-2. Last year's Junior League Asia-Pacific champions finished out their pool this year with a meager one win and four losses.

The CNMI Big Leaguers, meanwhile, played their consolation game against Indonesia last night at 8:45pm, Saipan time; results of that contest are still pending.

The CNMI Junior, Senior, and Big League All-Stars are expected to return home from Jakarta on Monday. After the tournament, their flight schedule departs from Jakarta en route to the Philippines then off to Japan before returning back to Saipan.

Nationals lead Mobil; VisMinda wins

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The CNMI Nationals' bid to bounce back from an opening-game loss in the 2010 United Filipino Organization

Inter-Organizational Reinforced Basketball League had to wait for another day, as their match against Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense-Mobil last Tuesday at the Garapan Court was rained out.

The game was suspended with the Nationals ahead, 80-71, with 4:55 left on the clock.

The Nationals lost to defending champion MDX-Chow Queen during the league's opening last Sunday, 70-76, and were eager to redeem themselves in their second game.

Against Mobil, the Nationals leaned on their suffocating backcourt pressure defense to put their foes in disarray and control the first half. On offense, the Nationals got away with fastbreak layups and several short jumpers, as Mobil committed one turnover after another.

Dan Barcinas benefited the most in those miscues, scoring eight in the first period and giving the Nationals a 20-17 lead.

In the second period, it was Pete Iguel's turn to sizzle, firing 10 markers, while Barcinas added six, as the Nationals continued to pressure Mobil to take a 50-37 advantage at the break.

The Nationals led by as much as 18 in the second quarter before Mobil found ways to escape from the former's tough defense in the third. Guards Jun Estolas and Pando Muleta teamed up in the third-quarter recovery, combining for 20 points, as Mobil trimmed the Nationals' lead to five, 65-70. Mobil cut the lead to as low as three, 63-66, in the last minute of the third before Iguel and Barcinas made a basket apiece to widen the gap.

See **NATIONALS** on Page 26

Mieko upbeat about Kaike race

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



CNMI triathlete Mieko Carey will leave for Japan tomorrow to compete in the 30th Annual Kaiko Triathlon Championships.

She is one of the two triathletes who will represent the Commonwealth in the annual race in Japan's Tottori Prefecture. The other one is Tinian's Joshua Manglona. Carey will return to Japan still recovering from a grueling two-day adventure race, but is confident of completing the Sunday event.

"My legs are still sore from that two-day adventure race in Japan two weeks ago. I didn't do a lot of things since I returned on July 6. I just had an easy ride and jog. But when I did the two-day adventure race, I got a little bit of confidence to do Kaiko. Kaiko will be less than 32 hours," Carey said.

Although the Kaiko race is shorter than Carey's adventure race in Japan, the Sunday event is longer than the

See **MIEKO** on Page 26



Mieko Carey, seen here in running along Beach Road during this year's Tagaman Triathlon, will be leaving for Japan tomorrow for the Kaiko triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Over 50 boats expected for Saipan fishing tourney

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Over 50 boats and more than 100 captains and crewmembers are expected to take part in this weekend's 26th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament.

The tournament begins this Saturday and will continue through Sunday from 6am to 6pm daily.

Launching points for the competi-

tion are scheduled daily from 6am to 8am at the Smiling Cove Marina, Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, and the Garapan Fishing Base; any late launches must depart from the Smiling Cove Marina.

The entrance fee is \$150 for the captain and one crewmember with another \$25 fee for each additional crewmember.

Pre-registration for the derby is scheduled for this Friday starting at 5pm at the Smiling Cove Marina.

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Anthony Camacho of *Sta. Remedio* poses with the 319.5-lb. marlin they caught in last year's 25th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament. This year's fishing tournament will be held this weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Nationals' James Lee goes for a reverse layup against SIP-Mobil defenders during their game in the UFO caging last Tuesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.